

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1097

Sponsors: Senator Preston.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

April 7, 2009

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF BEAUFORT
2 ON THE TOWN'S THREE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, the area that developed into the Town of Beaufort began attracting settlers
4 in the 1700s, including Farnival Green of Bath, who received a land grant in 1707 of 780 acres
5 between the Newport and North Rivers for the Lords Proprietors; and

6 Whereas, in 1709, the Town located on the site of the former Coree Indian Village,
7 Cwarioc, which meant "fish town" or "fish village;" and

8 Whereas, the Town was originally known as Fishtown by its settlers, who
9 recognized the maritime importance of the area; and

10 Whereas, on October 3, 1713, the Town was laid out by Richard Graves on 100
11 acres of land owned by Robert Turner, a local settler, with the permission of the Lords
12 Proprietors; and

13 Whereas, the Town was named Beaufort for Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort,
14 who was a Lord Proprietor during that time; and

15 Whereas, in 1720, Robert Turner sold his land to Richard Rustull, who expanded
16 Beaufort to a 200-acre town; and

17 Whereas, on April 1, 1723, the Lords Proprietors declared Beaufort an official
18 seaport of entry worthy of a customs office, and Carteret Precinct (County) was formed with
19 Beaufort as the county seat; and

20 Whereas, Beaufort was incorporated on November 23, 1723; and

21 Whereas, the first commissioners of the Town were Christopher Gale, John Nelson,
22 Joseph Bell, Richard Bell, and Richard Rustull; and

23 Whereas, according to local legend, Beaufort's Hammock House, circa 1700, was
24 charted on sailors' maps as a guide to shore and served as the onetime home of Edward Teach,
25 the infamous pirate known as Blackbeard; and

26 Whereas, in 1776, Robert Williams, established the "Old Public Salt Works" which
27 allowed Beaufort's residents and those in surrounding areas to be independent of the Crown
28 when Britain blocked all imports, including salt, to the colonies during the Revolutionary War;
29 and

30 Whereas, Captain Otway Burns, who has been regarded as North Carolina's most
31 famous naval hero in the War of 1812, having captured many British merchant ships and
32 hastening the war's end as commander of the schooner "Snap Dragon," lived in Beaufort and
33 later represented Carteret County as a member of the General Assembly; and

34 Whereas, Beaufort was the site of the famed Atlantic Hotel, built in 1859 and
35 accessed only by boat after departing the railcars in Morehead City, which became the most
36 luxurious hotel in the State and welcomed tourists, except for the period it served as a Union
37 hospital during the Civil War, until it was destroyed by a hurricane in 1879; and



1 Whereas, through its long history, Beaufort has remained a small village that has
2 held onto its maritime culture and historic roots; and

3 Whereas, in 1810, Jacob Henry, a former State legislator, wrote an article in the
4 Raleigh Star declaring Beaufort "a place of much resort" with a "boundless view of the ocean"
5 where the climate is "highly favorable to health and longevity;" and

6 Whereas, Beaufort grew slowly over a period of many years, attracting new
7 residents and businesses, especially after the railroad started making stops in the area in the
8 early 1900s; and

9 Whereas, Beaufort, situated on North Carolina's "Crystal Coast," has been a favorite
10 port of call along the Intercoastal Waterway since it opened in 1911 with many boats mooring
11 at the dependable Beaufort Docks; and

12 Whereas, Beaufort's Historic District, bounded by Beaufort Channel, Pine and
13 Fulford Streets, and Taylors Creek, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places
14 since 1974 and has more than 100 homes that are more than a century old; and

15 Whereas, in December 2008, as a result of the efforts by the 300th Anniversary
16 planning board, Beaufort received national recognition when it was designated as one of the
17 nation's newest Preserve America Communities by First Lady Laura Bush, Honorary Chair of
18 the Preserve America Community initiative, which recognizes communities that "demonstrate
19 that they are committed to preserving America's heritage while ensuring a future filled with
20 opportunities for learning and enjoyment;" and

21 Whereas, Beaufort will celebrate its 300th anniversary throughout the year of 2009,
22 culminating with a month-long celebration of events to be held in September 2009; and

23 Whereas, a number of dedicated volunteers have devoted many hours to planning
24 many special events that will be held to recognize the Town's 300th anniversary; and

25 Whereas, Beaufort is the third oldest town in North Carolina; and

26 Whereas, Beaufort's 300th anniversary is worthy of recognition and celebration;
27 Now, therefore,

28 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

29 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of the early residents of
30 the Town of Beaufort for their contributions to their community, the State of North Carolina,
31 and the nation.

32 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends sincere good wishes to the residents
33 of the Town of Beaufort on the occasion of the Town's 300th anniversary in 2009 and
34 encourages the citizens of this State to join Beaufort in demonstrating respect for and pride in
35 our history and heritage.

36 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
37 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Beaufort.

38 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.