

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1989 SESSION
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 64
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2024

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ELISHA MITCHELL ON THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT MITCHELL STATE PARK AND COMMEMORATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST STATE PARK IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, Dr. Elisha Mitchell was a pioneer scientist of the south and a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and

Whereas, Mount Mitchell was named for Dr. Elisha Mitchell who measured the height of Mount Mitchell in 1835, and discovered for the first time that it was the highest land in America east of the Mississippi River; and

Whereas, the reasons for establishing Mount Mitchell as the first North Carolina State Park were cited in Chapter 76 of the Public Laws of 1915:

"Whereas, the summit of Mount Mitchell in Yancey County is the greatest altitude east of the Rocky Mountains; and

Whereas, the headwaters of many of the important streams of the State are at, or near the said summit, and the forest is being cleared, which tends to damage and injure the streams flowing through the said State from the mountains to the Atlantic Ocean; and

Whereas, it is deemed desirable that this beautiful and elevated spot shall be acquired and permanently dedicated as a State park for the use of the entire State seeking health and recreation; and

Whereas, unless the said land is acquired by the State at this time, the cost of acquiring it at a later date will be greatly increased and the watercourses may be damaged, and the beauty and scenery destroyed by removing the growth therefrom, and irreparable damage accrue;" and

Whereas, millions of visitors to Mount Mitchell since 1915 have enjoyed its beauty; and

Whereas, the General Assembly of 1987-88, affirming the wisdom of their predecessors, enacted the State Parks Act which recognized that "the State of North Carolina offers unique archaeologic, geologic, biologic, scenic, and recreational resources. These resources are part of the heritage of the people of the State. The heritage of a people should be preserved and managed by those people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants";

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Dr. Elisha Mitchell on the 75th anniversary of Mount Mitchell State Park and commemorates the establishment of the first State Park in North Carolina.

Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 12th day of July, 1990.

James C. Gardner
President of the Senate

J. L. Mavretic
Speaker of the House of Representatives