

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 833

Sponsors: Representatives McLawhorn; Allen, Barefoot, Bonner, Edwards, Hill, Lucas, Luebke, Rogers, Underhill, Wainwright, Warren, Weiss, and Yongue.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 28, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF JOHN
2 LAWSON ON THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS FIFTY-SEVEN DAY FIVE
3 HUNDRED FIFTY-MILE TREK THROUGH THE BACKCOUNTRY OF THE
4 CAROLINAS.

5 Whereas, John Lawson, explorer, surveyor general for the Lords Proprietors,
6 and author, departed from Charles Town on December 28, 1700, on a 57-day 550-mile
7 exploration of the backcountry of the two Carolinas, arriving at the Pamlico River near
8 Bath on February 24, 1701; and

9 Whereas, John Lawson's observations during the 11 years he resided in the
10 Carolinas contributed significantly to our understanding of the land, resources, natural
11 history, native people, and their customs, crops, and culture; and

12 Whereas, John Lawson laid off and established the Town of Bath, the first
13 town incorporated in North Carolina; and

14 Whereas, John Lawson was clerk of the court and public register of Bath
15 County as well as the official surveyor for the Lords Proprietors; and

16 Whereas, John Lawson conferred with Baron Christoph von Graffenried
17 before the Baron decided to locate his colony in North Carolina; and

18 Whereas, John Lawson was commissioned by Baron Christoph von
19 Graffenried to locate a site for a colony; and

20 Whereas, John Lawson selected a site for the new town at the confluence of
21 the Neuse and Trent Rivers, to be known as New Bern; and

22 Whereas, John Lawson's findings gathered on his 1701 trek through the
23 Carolinas brought about interest in the North Carolina colony; and

24 Whereas, John Lawson's findings, keen observations, and descriptions based
25 on his exploration were ultimately published in "A New Voyage to Carolina" in 1709,
26 which is now recognized as a classic of early American literature; Now, therefore,

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of John Lawson
2 and calls upon all North Carolinians to observe, celebrate, and participate in events
3 commemorating the tercentenary of John Lawson's trek through the Carolinas while
4 recognizing the unique importance of this individual to the history of the State and
5 nation.

6 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.