

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2001**  
**RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2001-30**  
**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1102**

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF WINGATE ON THE TOWN'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

Whereas, the Town of Wingate, formerly known as "Ames Turnout", was established after the Carolina Central Railroad built tracks through a section of Union County east of Monroe; and

Whereas, the first building in the area was Meadow Branch Baptist Church (now Wingate Baptist), which was organized in 1810; and

Whereas, in 1876, the only structures in the community were the church and an old sawmill near the railroad, which was operated by W. Hamp Simpson; and

Whereas, in the late 1800s, W. Hamp Simpson built the first house in the community, and John Williams opened a store on the south side of the railroad; and

Whereas, in 1893, J. Lonnie Austin, W. M. Perry, and G. M. Stewart founded a long-standing mercantile business; and

Whereas, in 1901, the Town of Wingate was incorporated by the General Assembly; and

Whereas, the Town took its name from the Wingate School, now Wingate University, which was authorized by the Union Baptist Association at its annual meeting in October of 1895; and

Whereas, J. Tom Lowery served as the Town's first mayor, and W. M. Perry, John W. Outen, and J. Lonnie Austin served as the Town's first commissioners; and

Whereas, Ma-Leck Woodcrafts, named for Leck and Mary Helms, was one of Union County's largest industries for a number of years; and

Whereas, in 1961 and 1970, the Town grew in size due to several annexations; and

Whereas, over the years, the Town of Wingate has had many well-known visitors, including General George C. Patton, United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annon, Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Hugh Shelton, Great Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and the Dalai Llama; and

Whereas, the Town of Wingate has developed and prospered; and

Whereas, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Wingate is worthy of celebration and should be enjoyed and supported by all North Carolina citizens; Now, therefore,

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

**SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of the Town of Wingate and extends its sincere congratulations to the Town upon its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Wingate.

**SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.  
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, 2001.

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Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

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James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives