

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1999**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1866

Sponsors: Representatives Thompson and Buchanan.

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

June 28, 2000

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVEREND
2 EDGAR TUFTS, FOUNDER OF LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE IN BANNER ELK,
3 ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEGE.

4 Whereas, in 1895, Edgar Tufts, a student at the Union Theological Seminary
5 in Virginia, was sent by the Concord Presbytery to organize a church in Banner Elk,
6 North Carolina; and

7 Whereas, in 1897, newly ordained Reverend Edgar Tufts returned to Banner
8 Elk and became pastor of that church; and

9 Whereas, during the winter of 1899, Reverend Tufts, concerned about the
10 limited educational opportunities for students living in his community, took it upon
11 himself to provide further instruction to these students; and

12 Whereas, Reverend Tufts felt that his efforts were not enough, especially for
13 girls, and set out to establish a boarding school; and

14 Whereas, in 1900, with donations of money, lumber, and labor, a dormitory
15 to house fourteen female students and a teacher was opened; and

16 Whereas, the school was named McRae Institute in honor of Elizabeth A.
17 McRae, a summer school teacher who was devoted to her work; and

18 Whereas, a few years later, Reverend Tufts opened a similar school for boys
19 in Plumtree, North Carolina; and

20 Whereas, the name of both the girls' and boys' schools became Lees-McRae
21 to honor Mrs. S. P. Lees, who was a generous benefactor; and

22 Whereas, in 1907, the schools were chartered by the State of North Carolina
23 as Lees-McRae Institute; and

24 Whereas, in 1927, the separate schools were merged as a coeducational
25 facility in Banner Elk; and

26 Whereas, in 1931, Lees-McRae Institute became a two-year college and in
27 1990, Lees-McRae College became a fully-accredited baccalaureate institution; and

1 Whereas, for 100 years, Lees-McRae College has provided the students of
2 North Carolina, particularly those in the western part of the State, with a quality, values-
3 based education; Now, therefore,

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

5 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Reverend
6 Edgar Tufts on the one hundredth anniversary of Lees-McRae College.

7 Section 2. The General Assembly joins Lees-McRae College in recognizing
8 September 26, 2000, as Edgar Tufts Day.

9 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
10 resolution to the President of Lees-McRae College.

11 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.