

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 76

Sponsors: Representatives Moore and Barbee.

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

February 15, 1999

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN REED ON THE
2 BICENTENNIAL OF AMERICA'S FIRST GOLD DISCOVERY.

3 Whereas, John Reed, a Hessian soldier of the American Revolution who fled
4 the British army, took up farming in present-day Cabarrus County; and

5 Whereas, in 1799 his 12-year-old son Conrad discovered a small wedge-
6 shaped rock that weighed an estimated 17 pounds; and

7 Whereas, that find was the first authenticated discovery of gold north of
8 Mexico and initiated the first gold rush in America; and

9 Whereas, during the next half century North Carolina played a leading role in
10 gold mining, this activity reaching from the mountains to the coastal plain and employing
11 thousands of North Carolinians; and

12 Whereas, the Bechtler family established the nation's first private mint in
13 Rutherford County; and

14 Whereas, all of the native gold minted in the United States prior to 1828 came
15 from the Old North State; and

16 Whereas, the United States government established a branch mint in Charlotte
17 in 1837; and

18 Whereas, before 1849 North Carolina produced more gold than any state in the
19 Union; and

20 Whereas, Canada and Alaska are commemorating the centennial of the
21 Klondike gold rush; and

1 Whereas, the state of California is commemorating the sesquicentennial of the
2 California gold rush; and

3 Whereas, North Carolina needs to reassert its primacy in the history of gold in
4 America; Now, therefore,

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

6 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of John Reed and calls
7 upon all North Carolinians to observe, celebrate, and participate in events
8 commemorating the bicentennial of the discovery of gold at the Reed Gold Mine State
9 Historic Site and the importance of gold in the history of the State and nation.

10 Section 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.