

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1027

Sponsors: Senators Rand; and Basnight.

Referred to: Calendar 6/17/03.

June 16, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF ORVILLE AND
2 WILBUR WRIGHT AND ENCOURAGING THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE TO
3 RECOGNIZE 2003 AS THE AVIATION CENTENNIAL YEAR IN NORTH
4 CAROLINA.

5 Whereas, on December 17, 1903, at 10:35 A.M. near Kitty Hawk, North
6 Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful powered heavier-than-air
7 flight, which lasted 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet; and

8 Whereas, a few years prior to the first flight, William Tate, Postmaster of
9 Kitty Hawk, corresponded with the Wright brothers and encouraged them to test their
10 experimental machine at the Outer Banks and later provided them with shelter in his
11 home; and

12 Whereas, witnesses to the first flight were Kill Devil Hill Life Saving Station
13 members John T. Daniels, Will S. Dough, and Adam D. Etheridge and Outer Banks
14 inhabitants W.C. Brinkley and Johnny Moore; and

15 Whereas, John T. Daniels took photographs of the first flight, providing the
16 world with proof that this event took place that December morning; and

17 Whereas, the Wright brothers' flight, a monumental innovation of the 20th
18 century, made a significant impact in our daily lives; and

19 Whereas, the development of flight changed the delivery of mail and goods;
20 methods of travel, transportation, communications, and warfare; agriculture production;
21 emergency medical services; law enforcement; environmental protection; search and
22 rescue; and disaster relief; and

23 Whereas, aviation led to the development of aerospace technology, allowing
24 space exploration and lunar landings and the creation of the international space station;
25 and

26 Whereas, in 2001, the United States' aerospace and aviation industry
27 employed more than two million people, and in 2000, the industry had a payroll of \$98
28 billion; and

29 Whereas, in 2001, the aerospace and aviation industry ranked 20th in North
30 Carolina, providing over 38,000 jobs with a payroll of \$1.6 billion; and

1 Whereas, military aviation has an economic impact of more than \$4 billion a
2 year in North Carolina; and

3 Whereas, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first flight, the 105th
4 Congress declared 2003 as the Aviation Centennial Year in America; and

5 Whereas, during 2003, activities have been planned throughout the nation to
6 mark the 100th anniversary of this historic flight; and

7 Whereas, in North Carolina, the City of Fayetteville hosted the Festival of
8 Flight May 10-26, 2003, which featured such activities as an arts festival, a military air
9 show at Pope Air Force Base, and an exposition with aviation displays and interactive
10 exhibits; and

11 Whereas, North Carolina's First Flight Centennial Commission plans to
12 commemorate the first flight with displays, aerial performances, and a reenactment of
13 the December 17, 1903, flights at the Wright Brothers National Memorial; and

14 Whereas, the people of North Carolina are proud to live in the State where
15 humankind's first flight took place; and

16 Whereas, it is only fitting that 2003 be recognized as the Aviation Centennial
17 Year in North Carolina; Now, therefore,

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

19 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Orville and
20 Wilbur Wright and expresses its appreciation for the contributions they made to
21 aviation.

22 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly encourages the citizens of the State to
23 participate in activities commemorating the first flight and to join together in celebrating
24 2003 as the Aviation Centennial Year in North Carolina.

25 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.