

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR75331-LG-205 (05/10)**

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Sponsors: Senator Dalton.

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GENERAL  
2    GRIFFITH RUTHERFORD ON THE 225<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF RUTHERFORD  
3    COUNTY.

4    Whereas, Rutherford County was formed when Tryon County was divided  
5    into Lincoln and Rutherford Counties in April 1779; and

6    Whereas, Rutherford County was named for General Griffith Rutherford of  
7    Rowan County, a Revolutionary War general and member of the Provincial Congress;  
8    and

9    Whereas, the early settlers of Rutherford County included people of  
10   Scotch-Irish origin, who migrated to the area from Pennsylvania; and

11   Whereas, Gilbert Town served as the county seat until 1786, when that honor  
12   went to Rutherfordton; and

13   Whereas, it is believed that Westminster was the county's earliest settlement  
14   due to the age of the Brittain Presbyterian Church, which was established in 1768; and

15   Whereas, Rutherford County played a significant role in gold production,  
16   with Rutherfordton having the distinction of operating the only private gold mint in the  
17   southeastern United States from the 1790s to the 1840s and producing the first gold  
18   dollar; and

19   Whereas, Rutherford County's natural resources have also aided in the  
20   production of agricultural and lumber products; and

21   Whereas, Rutherford County's first textile plant opened in 1874,  
22   manufacturing cotton yarn and employing 50 people; and

23   Whereas, R. R. Haynes and S. B. Tanner built a cotton mill near Henrietta in  
24   1885 and later built homes for the mill workers along with a school and company store;  
25   and

26   Whereas, this textile mill was the first textile mill to offer hospital insurance  
27   to its employees; and

1       Whereas, Rutherford County remains a favorite destination of tourists, many  
2 of whom flock to such sites as Lake Lure and Chimney Rock; and

3       Whereas, Rutherford County is home to a portion of the Overmountain  
4 Victory National Historic Trail, a part of the national trail system, which commemorates  
5 the route taken by American Patriot soldiers on their way to the Battle of Kings  
6 Mountain; and

7       Whereas, according to the 2000 census, there are approximately 63,000  
8 people who call Rutherford County home, a significant increase above the 1,136 heads  
9 of households recorded in the 1790 census; and

10      Whereas, the people of Rutherford County are proud of their rich historical  
11 heritage, cultural diversity, and natural beauty and wish to commemorate the county's  
12 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary; Now, therefore,

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

14      **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to honor General Griffith  
15 Rutherford for his service to our State and nation, and extends its sincere  
16 congratulations and best wishes to the County of Rutherford upon the County's 225<sup>th</sup>  
17 anniversary.

18      **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
19 resolution to the county commissioners of the County of Rutherford.

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