GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2003

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1408

Sponsors:	Senator Dalton.
Referred to:	Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 28, 2004

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GENERAL GRIFFITH RUTHERFORD ON THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly wishes to honor General Griffith Rutherford for his service to our State and nation, and extends its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the County of Rutherford upon the County's 225th anniversary.

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

SECTION 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.