

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR60126-LG-87 (2/22)

Sponsors: Representatives Sauls and Lewis (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF
2 COATS ON THE OCCASION OF THE TOWN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, the Town of Coats was incorporated on March 4, 1905; and

4 Whereas, the Town of Coats is named for the late James Thomas Coats, also
5 known as, Elder Tom, who purchased 706 acres of land from heirs of Daniel I. and
6 Sarah Shaw; and

7 Whereas, Elder Tom Coats gave a right-of-way and land for a depot to the
8 Cape Fear and Northern Railroad in 1902, and thereafter recruited Romelus Lambert to
9 survey and lay out a town around the depot that was to be 250 acres; and

10 Whereas, J.K. Stewart was appointed as the first mayor of the town in 1905
11 and P.F. Pope followed as the first elected mayor later that year; and

12 Whereas, Elder Tom Coats built the first church in the town, Gift Primitive
13 Baptist Church, in 1909 and became the first pastor; and

14 Whereas, the Coats Brick Mill manufactured brick for the first 13 brick
15 buildings in town by 1913; and

16 Whereas, the first brick school building was built in the town in 1920; and

17 Whereas, Coats native, the late Alton Stewart, was the first licensed pilot in
18 North Carolina and had his license signed by Orville Wright on April 6, 1926; and

19 Whereas, Mrs. Addie Lee Stancil Parrish, a resident of Coats, and the last
20 Confederate widow living in Harnett County died August 20, 1979; and

21 Whereas, Coats High School consolidated with Erwin and Dunn High
22 Schools in 1985 and a celebration of the closing of the old school, known as the Coats
23 High School Reunion Project, drew in excess of 5,000 people; and

24 Whereas, a group of Coats citizens salvaged an old two-room schoolhouse
25 and converted it to a Coats History Museum in 1995; and

26 Whereas, Coats will mark its Centennial on March 4, 2005, and will dedicate
27 a Cotton Planting Museum among other planned celebrations; and

1 Whereas, the 2,000 citizens of Coats are hardworking, hospitable people who
2 are proud of their past and look forward to their future; and

3 Whereas, the centennial anniversary of the Town of Coats is worthy of
4 celebration; Now, therefore,

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

6 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of the
7 founders and early residents of the Town of Coats for their contributions to North
8 Carolina.

9 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the Town of Coats on its
10 100th anniversary and encourages the people of this State to join the citizens of Coats in
11 celebrating this historic occasion.

12 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
13 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Coats.

14 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.