

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1567

Sponsors: Senator Goss.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

June 25, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GROVER
2 ROBBINS, JR., FOUNDER OF TWEETSIE RAILROAD ON THE THEME
3 PARK'S FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

4 Whereas, in 1866, the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad
5 Company was given permission to construct a railroad between Tennessee and North
6 Carolina; and

7 Whereas, rail service began in 1882 between Johnson City, Tennessee, and
8 Cranberry, North Carolina, and within a few years was extended to Boone, North
9 Carolina; and

10 Whereas, the name "Tweetsie" came about as a result of the shrill "tweet,
11 tweet" sound made by the train's whistles as the train passed through the mountains; and

12 Whereas, the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad Company
13 ceased operating in 1950, and the company's only surviving coal-fired steam engine,
14 Tweetsie Locomotive #12, changed owners several times before it was purchased in
15 1956 by Grover Robbins, Jr., a native of Blowing Rock, North Carolina; and

16 Whereas, Grover Robbins, Jr. developed the concept for Tweetsie Railroad
17 and opened the attraction as North Carolina's first theme park on July 4, 1957; and

18 Whereas, Grover Robbins, Jr. made other contributions to North Carolina's
19 tourism industry prior to his death in 1970, including developing the Hound Ears Lodge
20 and Club on Beech Mountain, Linville Land Harbor, and the former Land of Oz Theme
21 Park on Beech Mountain; and

22 Whereas, Tweetsie Railroad offers visitors a variety of entertainment,
23 including an action-packed three-mile train ride featuring Tweetsie Locomotive #12, a
24 Wild West theme park, live shows, amusement rides, scenic chair lift rides to Miner's
25 Mountain, a Tweetsie Railroad/ET & WNC Museum, and a petting zoo; and

26 Whereas, Tweetsie Railroad also has a complete steam train repair shop
27 business, which rebuilds and restores locomotives for other theme parks and museums;
28 and

29 Whereas, Tweetsie Railroad's #12 locomotive is listed on the National
30 Register of Historic Places; and

1 Whereas, Tweetsie Railroad should be commended for offering 50 years of
2 family fun to the people from North Carolina and around the country and for continuing
3 to attract thousands of visitors each year; Now, therefore,

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

5 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Grover Robbins,
6 Jr. and expresses its appreciation for his many contributions to tourism in North
7 Carolina.

8 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly commends Tweetsie Railroad on its
9 50th anniversary and encourages the citizens of this State to participate in activities
10 observing the theme park's celebration.

11 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
12 resolution to the owners of Tweetsie Railroad.

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