

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1102**

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Sponsors: Senators Plyler; and Purcell.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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June 20, 2001

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF  
2 WINGATE ON THE TOWN'S 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

3       Whereas, the Town of Wingate, formerly known as "Ames Turnout", was  
4 established after the Carolina Central Railroad built tracks through a section of Union  
5 County east of Monroe; and

6       Whereas, the first building in the area was Meadow Branch Baptist Church  
7 (now Wingate Baptist), which was organized in 1810; and

8       Whereas, in 1876, the only structures in the community were the church and  
9 an old sawmill near the railroad, which was operated by W. Hamp Simpson; and

10       Whereas, in the late 1800s, W. Hamp Simpson built the first house in the  
11 community, and John Williams opened a store on the south side of the railroad; and

12       Whereas, in 1893, J. Lonnie Austin, W. M. Perry, and G. M. Stewart founded  
13 a long-standing mercantile business; and

14       Whereas, in 1901, the Town of Wingate was incorporated by the General  
15 Assembly; and

16       Whereas, the Town took its name from the Wingate School, now Wingate  
17 University, which was authorized by the Union Baptist Association at its annual  
18 meeting in October of 1895; and

19       Whereas, J. Tom Lowery served as the Town's first mayor, and W. M. Perry,  
20 John W. Outen, and J. Lonnie Austin served as the Town's first commissioners; and

21       Whereas, Ma-Leck Woodcrafts, named for Leck and Mary Helms, was one of  
22 Union County's largest industries for a number of years; and

23       Whereas, in 1961 and 1970, the Town grew in size due to several  
24 annexations; and

25       Whereas, over the years, the Town of Wingate has had many well-known  
26 visitors, including General George C. Patton, United States Secretary of State Madeline  
27 Albright, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annon, Head of the Joint Chiefs of  
28 Staff Hugh Shelton, Great Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and the Dalai  
29 Llama; and

1           Whereas, the Town of Wingate has developed and prospered; and  
2           Whereas, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town of Wingate is worthy of  
3 celebration and should be enjoyed and supported by all North Carolina citizens; Now,  
4 therefore,

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

6           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of the Town of  
7 Wingate and extends its sincere congratulations to the Town upon its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

8           **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
9 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Wingate.

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