

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1368
Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 7/24/02
Third Edition Engrossed 7/24/02**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 12, 2002

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MYRTLE
2 ELEANOR "LULU BELLE" COOPER WISEMAN STAMEY, FORMER
3 MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND CELEBRATING THE YEAR
4 OF APPALACHIA.

5 Whereas, the Appalachian region has a unique and rich culture; and

6 Whereas, July 2002 through July 2003 has been designated the "Year of
7 Appalachia", a celebration that will commence with the 75th anniversary of the Bristol
8 recording session, which introduced Appalachian music and the region to the world in
9 1927, and culminate with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington, D.C.; and

10 Whereas, the Year of Appalachia was initiated by the Birthplace of Country
11 Music Alliance, a regional organization based in Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia that fosters
12 appreciation of the cultural heritage of Appalachia, particularly the region's music, and
13 sustainable economic development activities based on the region's rich heritage; and

14 Whereas, legislation has been introduced in Congress designating July 2002
15 through July 2003 as the Year of Appalachia; and

16 Whereas, several of the thirteen states in the Appalachian region have
17 adopted legislation proclaiming the Year of Appalachia with the remaining states
18 planning to adopt similar measures; and

19 Whereas, various activities have been planned throughout the Appalachian
20 region to celebrate the region's culture and heritage, including performances featuring
21 traditional mountain music, dance, and crafts; and

22 Whereas, the Year of Appalachia will promote regional economic
23 development through increased cultural and heritage tourism; and

24 Whereas, during the Year of Appalachia the General Assembly would like to
25 recognize the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance for its many contributions to the
26 Appalachian region and to pay tribute to one of the State's most renown music
27 performers, Myrtle Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey; and

28 Whereas, Lulu Belle was born on December 24, 1913, in Boone, North
29 Carolina, to John Reed Cooper and Sydney Knupp Cooper; and

1 Whereas, when she was a teenager, Lulu Belle and her family moved to
2 Illinois; and

3 Whereas, Lulu Belle began working as a singer and comedienne with Red
4 Foley at age 19 on WLS Chicago's National Barn Dance, the most popular folk and
5 country music radio program at that time; and

6 Whereas, Lulu Belle was later paired on the show with Scotty Wiseman,
7 another North Carolinian, whom she married in 1934; and

8 Whereas, during the 1930s, Lulu Belle and Scotty's popularity helped attract
9 large numbers of people to country music; and

10 Whereas, Lulu Belle and Scotty were known as the "Sweethearts of Country
11 Music"; and

12 Whereas, in 1936, Lulu Belle was voted National Radio Queen by Radio
13 Guide's readers; and

14 Whereas, Lulu Belle and Scotty performed on the National Barn Dance for
15 almost 20 years, appeared together on several television shows and in seven motion
16 pictures, and recorded several albums; and

17 Whereas, from 1949 to 1957, Lulu Belle and Scotty hosted their own daily
18 television program on WNBQ in Chicago; and

19 Whereas, Lulu Belle and Scotty retired from entertaining in 1958 and moved
20 back to North Carolina; and

21 Whereas, during the 1960s and 1970s, Lulu Belle and Scotty performed
22 occasionally for events sponsored by the Country Music Association and the Grand Ole
23 Opry; and

24 Whereas, during the 1970s, Lulu Belle became active in politics and was
25 elected to the House of Representatives where she represented the people of Avery,
26 Burke, and Mitchell Counties from 1975 through 1978; and

27 Whereas, during her lifetime, Lulu Belle gave freely of her time to numerous
28 organizations, volunteered for the American Red Cross, and taught home nursing and
29 craft classes; and

30 Whereas, Lulu Belle was active in the Pine Grove Methodist Church; and

31 Whereas, Lulu Belle was a loving mother to her two children, Linda and
32 Steven, and a doting grandmother; and

33 Whereas, Lulu Belle lost her husband, Scotty, in 1981, and in 1983, married
34 lifelong friend, Ernest Stamey; and

35 Whereas, Lulu Belle recorded a solo album in 1986; and

36 Whereas, Lulu Belle made great contributions to country music and helped
37 pave the way for other female artists; and

38 Whereas, Lulu Belle died on February 8, 1999; Now, therefore,
39 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

40 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Myrtle
41 Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey for the service she rendered to the State
42 of North Carolina and for the invaluable contributions she made to country music.

1 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
2 family of Myrtle Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey for the loss of a
3 beloved family member.

4 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly commends the Birthplace of Country
5 Music Alliance for its efforts in initiating the Year of Appalachia and encourages the
6 citizens of this State to participate in the activities planned to celebrate the Year of
7 Appalachia.

8 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit certified copies of this
9 resolution to the family of Myrtle Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey and
10 the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance.

11 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.