

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1474**

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Sponsors: Senators Metcalf; and Carter.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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July 18, 2002

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF BASCOM  
2 LAMAR LUNSFORD ON THE OCCASION OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH  
3 ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNTAIN DANCE AND FOLK FESTIVAL.

4       Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford preserved and promoted the Appalachian  
5 mountain traditions for generations of people, founding in 1928 the Mountain Dance  
6 and Folk Festival in Asheville, North Carolina, an annual event that has shaped  
7 America's festival movement; and

8       Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford, a Western North Carolina native and  
9 long-time resident of South Turkey Creek, visited cabins in the valleys and high tops  
10 across the Southern Appalachian mountains in search of the region's indigenous music  
11 and dance traditions; and

12       Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford recorded these findings for Columbia  
13 University and the Library of Congress, thereby making these recorded collections  
14 among their largest and certainly most direct from the people of the Southern  
15 Appalachian region; and

16       Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford's vocations as a lawyer, public speaker,  
17 beekeeper, teacher, campaign manager, newspaper editor and more, positioned him well  
18 to promote the region's cultural heritage; and

19       Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford, in 1928, collaborated with the Asheville  
20 Chamber of Commerce to present a festival of the region's traditional music and dance,  
21 known as the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival; and

22       Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford was invited by President Franklin  
23 Roosevelt to the White House in 1939, along with the Soco Gap dance team, for a  
24 performance before the King and Queen of England on the eve of World War II as a  
25 gesture to emphasize the bonds of the American people with Great Britain – as the  
26 music and dancing of Southern Appalachia find its roots largely in the British Isle  
27 traditions; and

28       Whereas, the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival has brought important  
29 recognition from outside the State and instilled pride within the region for the unique  
30 cultural heritage of the Southern Appalachian mountains; and

1           Whereas, the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, in its 75 years, has brought  
2 hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world to Western North Carolina to  
3 experience this unique cultural heritage, creating economic impacts throughout the  
4 region; and

5           Whereas, the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival has served as a model for the  
6 establishment of folk festivals around the United States, for many of which Bascom  
7 Lamar Lunsford served as a consultant; and

8           Whereas, the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival continues to have a major  
9 regional cultural impact, continuing its important role in the perpetuation of Southern  
10 Appalachian music and dance traditions, presenting hundreds of artists each year to new  
11 audiences; and

12           Whereas, Bascom Lamar Lunsford and the Mountain Dance and Folk  
13 Festival have brought awareness of the value and vitality of the mountain heritage, and  
14 its crucial role in our society; Now, therefore,

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

16           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly expresses high esteem, regard, and  
17 deep appreciation for the life, accomplishments, and leadership of Bascom Lamar  
18 Lunsford and acknowledges with gratitude the importance of continuing his legacy of  
19 preserving and promoting the unique cultural heritage of the Southern Appalachian  
20 mountains.

21           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the Folk Heritage  
22 Committee for continuing Bascom Lamar Lunsford's vision and fulfilling the  
23 committee's mission of producing the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival and Shindig  
24 on the Green series in an effort to support the preservation and continuation of the  
25 music and dance heritage of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The General  
26 Assembly further congratulates the committee members for being good stewards of  
27 these traditions as they embark on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mountain Dance and Folk  
28 Festival in August of 2002.

29           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
30 resolution to the family of Bascom Lamar Lunsford and to the Folk Heritage  
31 Committee.

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