

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009
RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2009-23
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1655**

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY.

Whereas, the Blue Ridge Parkway will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010;
and

Whereas, construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway took more than 52 years,
beginning on September 11, 1935, near the Cumberland Knob in North Carolina and ending
with the last portion being laid out near the Linn Cove Viaduct in 1987; and

Whereas, the 469-mile Parkway runs through the Blue Ridge Mountains, connecting
Shenandoah National Park's Skyline Drive in Virginia at Rockfish Gap to U.S. 441 at
Oconaluftee in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Cherokee, North Carolina,
providing visitors with stunning views and a glimpse of Appalachian history; and

Whereas, at the time of its construction, the Parkway was the longest road ever to be
planned as a single unit in the United States; and

Whereas, the Parkway was a collaborative effort of the National Park Service; the
federal Bureau of Public Roads (later renamed the Federal Highway Administration); New
Deal agencies like the Public Works Administration, Works Progress Administration, Civilian
Conservation Corps, and Resettlement Administration; the state highway departments of
Virginia and North Carolina; and dozens of private road-building contractors; and

Whereas, R. Getty Browning, the Senior Locating and Claims Engineer for North
Carolina's State Highway Commission, played a crucial role in the construction of the Parkway;
and

Whereas, captivated by the idea of creating a parkway in late 1933, R. Getty
Browning designed and personally plotted on foot the route that the road now takes through
North Carolina; and

Whereas, in 1934, R. Getty Browning lobbied for this route in the face of opposition
from residents of Tennessee and federal officials who favored another line; and

Whereas, for more than 25 years, R. Getty Browning personally made sure that
North Carolina bought sufficient lands to protect the Parkway's views; and

Whereas, R. Getty Browning retired from the State Highway Commission in 1956
and later worked as the Highway Commission's Federal Parkway Engineer until 1962; and

Whereas, R. Getty Browning died on January 30, 1966, in Blowing Rock; and

Whereas, the Parkway continues to be the most visited of all the 391 units in the
National Park System; and

Whereas, the Parkway attracts over 20 million visitors annually and contributes
more than \$2.3 billion annually to the region's economy; and

Whereas, as the Parkway celebrates its 75th anniversary, it is important to raise
awareness of this exceptional natural and cultural resource; and

Whereas, the citizens of this State are encouraged to celebrate the 75th anniversary
of the Blue Ridge Parkway by joining the local communities along the Parkway in participating
in a series of events that focus regional and national attention on the history and stewardship of
this treasure; Now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of R. Getty Browning for
his role in routing and building the Blue Ridge Parkway through Western North Carolina.



SECTION 2. The General Assembly acknowledges the 75th anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway and encourages the citizens of this State to participate in activities marking this historic occasion.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 30th day of June, 2009.

Walter H. Dalton
President of the Senate

Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives