

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR60077-LG-239 (05/12)

Sponsors: Representatives Gillespie and Frye (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE OF LITTLE
2 SWITZERLAND.

3 Whereas, the community known as Little Switzerland was settled by Scotch-Irish
4 and German families in the late 1700s and originally called Phenoy; and

5 Whereas, in June of 1909, Heriot Clarkson, a lawyer from Charlotte who had served
6 as a State representative and later served as a State Supreme Court justice, travelled with a
7 small group of people to Grassy Mountain in search of land for a summer retreat; and

8 Whereas, Heriot Clarkson settled upon an area atop Chestnut Ridge that provided
9 stunning views of the mountains in the area; and

10 Whereas, on September 4, 1909, Heriot Clarkson organized the Switzerland
11 Company with John B. Alexander, Charles H. Duls, J.A. Durham, K.S. Finch, C.E. Mason,
12 Frank M. Shannonhouse, A.C. Summerville, W.H. Sumner, and D.A. Tompkins; and

13 Whereas, the Switzerland Company purchased 1,100 acres between McDowell and
14 Mitchell Counties and named the area "Little Switzerland" because the mountains in the area
15 resembled the Jura Mountains in Switzerland; and

16 Whereas, on February 10, 1910, the Switzerland Company began selling lots to
17 future residents; and

18 Whereas, Little Switzerland served as the site for boys' and girls' camps, including
19 Camp As-You-Like-It, one of the first girls' camps to open in Western North Carolina; and

20 Whereas, one of Little Switzerland's residents included Harriet Morehead Berry,
21 known as the "Mother of Good Roads in North Carolina," who helped to promote the Good
22 Roads Movement, which resulted in the creation of the State's modern highway system; and

23 Whereas, the success of Little Switzerland was due in part to better roads which
24 aided in attracting businesses and tourists to the area; and

25 Whereas, after 100 years as a resort community, Little Switzerland continues to
26 thrive; and

27 Whereas, the citizens of Little Switzerland have been actively preparing for the
28 community's centennial celebration through a number of community events; Now, therefore,
29 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

30 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of Little Switzerland and
31 joins the community's citizens in celebrating the community's centennial observance.

32 **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
33 resolution to the Little Switzerland Centennial Celebration Committee.

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

