

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR35429-LG-234A\* (05/11)**

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Sponsors:     Senator Snow.

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY  
2       ON THE OCCASION OF THE COUNTY'S ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH  
3       ANNIVERSARY.

4           Whereas, Transylvania County was formed from Henderson and Jackson Counties  
5    by an act of the State Legislature in 1861; and

6           Whereas, the act was introduced by Hendersonville attorney and representative of  
7    the House of Commons in the General Assembly, Joseph P. Jordan; and

8           Whereas, Transylvania County's name was derived from the words trans ("across")  
9    and silva or sylva ("woods"); and

10          Whereas, the many tributes and events of historical importance make Transylvania  
11   County truly unique; and

12          Whereas, the City of Brevard, laid out on land donated by Braxton C. Lankford,  
13   Leander S. Gash, and Alex F. England, was established as the county seat in 1868 and was  
14   named for Dr. Ephraim Brevard, who helped write the Declaration of Independence for  
15   Mecklenburg County and served his burgeoning young nation as a surgeon during the  
16   American Revolution; and

17          Whereas, perhaps the most widely known pioneer family in the County's past, the  
18   Gillespie family (formerly Gillaspie), has had a historical impact reaching far beyond the upper  
19   French Broad River as the founders of Transylvania County's famed clan of gunsmiths. The  
20   father, John Gillespie, also fought in the American Revolution and has been added to the  
21   honored roll of veterans of the American War for Independence who were laid to rest in  
22   Transylvania County; and

23          Whereas, in 1902, Joseph S. and Elizabeth Mount Silversteen came to Transylvania  
24   County as a young couple and embarked on a lifetime of business and civic leadership. The  
25   Silversteen family provided jobs for thousands of people throughout the County at their  
26   Toxaway Tanning, Gloucester Lumber, and Rosman Tanning Extract companies in Rosman  
27   and Transylvania Tanning in Brevard. The Silversteen's legacy of civic and cultural  
28   involvement continues to benefit the citizens of Transylvania County today; and

29          Whereas, the original Brevard Rosenwald School for African-Americans was  
30   constructed in 1920 and was a place of learning and of celebrating one's identity and,  
31   furthermore, emphasized the need for the students themselves to be caring, compassionate  
32   citizens; and

33          Whereas, Transylvania County became the State's first public school system to  
34   integrate, beginning in 1963, and became fully integrated in 1966, and Brevard High School  
35   was the first North Carolina high school to field integrated athletic teams, beginning with its  
36   1963 State champion football team; and



1           Whereas, Brevard College, an internationally recognized liberal arts institution,  
2 formed in 1853, is the oldest college or university in the mountains of Western North Carolina;  
3 and

4           Whereas, residents of Transylvania County take pride in the cultural resources in the  
5 County, including the Brevard Music Center, an internationally known summer institute which  
6 provides outstanding opportunities for students to learn and work with some of music's  
7 acknowledged professionals; an excellent public library known statewide for its high usage and  
8 contributions to the community's cultural life; a public school system recognized across North  
9 Carolina as of the highest caliber; a broad faith community, with churches throughout the  
10 County; and a remarkable array of rich, indigenous mountain music and renowned arts and  
11 crafts; and

12           Whereas, Transylvania County is known as the "Land of Waterfalls," as it is blessed  
13 with over 250 waterfalls, partially due to the fact that parts of Transylvania County receive the  
14 largest amount of rainfall in the State; and

15           Whereas, the Blue Ridge Parkway traverses parts of the County, affording  
16 spectacular views of the Appalachian Mountains, which reach over 6,000 in feet elevation in  
17 the County, with the highest point being Chestnut Knob, which lies northwest of the county  
18 seat; and

19           Whereas, the Cradle of Forestry in America is a 6,500-acre historic site within the  
20 Pisgah National Forest which attracts more than 40,000 visitors annually. Officially established  
21 in 1968, its roots begin with Carl Schenck's Biltmore Forest School, the first forestry school in  
22 America. The Cradle's Forest Discovery Center offers visitors a hands-on experience in  
23 conservation, history, and resource management, telling the story of the history of the area and  
24 early forest practices; and

25           Whereas, Transylvania County citizens have always answered the call to serve in  
26 our nation's military forces in peace and wartime. Beginning with the Spanish-American War,  
27 through World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, the Gulf War, and now in  
28 Iraq and Afghanistan, our citizens were there. Both men and women served willingly and  
29 honorably in the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and the Coast Guard.  
30 Some did not return, answering the ultimate call; and

31           Whereas, Transylvania County has contributed to the social, economic, cultural, and  
32 political prosperity of the State of North Carolina; and

33           Whereas, Transylvania County has continued to grow and prosper through the  
34 continued dedication, insight, and planning of the County's concerned leaders and citizens; and

35           Whereas, Transylvania County has a population of approximately 30,000 people;  
36 and

37           Whereas, Transylvania County is divided into nine townships: Balsam Grove,  
38 Brevard, Catheys Creek, Cedar Mountain, Dunns Rock, Lake Toxaway, Little River, Pisgah  
39 Forest, and Rosman; and

40           Whereas, plans have been made to celebrate Transylvania County's 150<sup>th</sup> historic  
41 anniversary throughout 2011; and

42           Whereas, this occasion is worthy of celebration and should be enjoyed and  
43 supported by all North Carolinians; Now, therefore,

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

45           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the founders of Transylvania County  
46 and encourages the citizens of this State to join Transylvania County in demonstrating respect  
47 for their history and heritage during the County's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

48           **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
49 resolution to the Chair of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners.

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