

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011**

**H**

**Simple  
Resolution  
Adopted**

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 10  
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/2/11  
Adopted 2/3/11**

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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January 31, 2011

1 A HOUSE 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 Latin words trans  
9 ("across") 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 Silversteens' 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



1 was the first North Carolina high school to field integrated athletic teams, beginning with its  
2 1963 State champion football team; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 Whereas, Transylvania County has a population of approximately 30,000 people;  
38 and

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

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

44 Whereas, this occasion is worthy of celebration and should be enjoyed and  
45 supported by all North Carolinians; Now, therefore,  
46 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

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

50 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution  
51 to the Chair of the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners.

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**SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.