

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

S

1

SENATE RESOLUTION 142*

Sponsors: Senators Mansfield; and Meredith.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 28, 2011

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION HONORING THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE, FOR WHOM
2 THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE IS NAMED.

3 Whereas, the Marquis de Lafayette, born on September 6, 1757, in Chavaniac in the
4 Auvergne region of France, is considered the "Hero of Two Worlds" because of his
5 participation in the American and French Revolutions as a military leader, diplomat, negotiator,
6 and fierce advocate of freedom for all men; and

7 Whereas, the Marquis de Lafayette is one of only seven foreigners, since the
8 founding of this nation, to be awarded honorary citizenship and his full-length portrait hangs in
9 the United States House of Representatives along with that of our first president, George
10 Washington; and

11 Whereas, the Marquis de Lafayette came to these shores as a young man of only 19
12 and travelled to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, where he offered his services as an
13 unpaid volunteer embracing our young country and becoming like an adopted son to General
14 Washington; and

15 Whereas, the Marquis de Lafayette's first battle of the American Revolution was at
16 Brandywine, where he fought courageously and was wounded. He also served with distinction
17 in various other engagements, including the surrender of the British Army at Yorktown, where
18 the Virginia army under his command cornered British General Cornwallis; and

19 Whereas, because of the Marquis de Lafayette's influence with the French
20 government, a naval force from France was dispatched to Chesapeake Bay, Virginia, to block
21 General Cornwallis's escape by sea. The surrender of General Cornwallis assured America its
22 victory in the Revolutionary War; and

23 Whereas, although a nobleman, the Marquis de Lafayette readily embraced the
24 ideals of democracy, liberty, and equality of men, ideals that he deemed worthy of fighting and
25 dying for. He argued forcefully that these ideals should include all men and that slavery should
26 be abolished. Due to his influence, General Washington willed that his slaves would be set free
27 upon his wife Martha's death; and

28 Whereas, in 1783, the two colonial villages of Cross Creek and Campbellton were
29 merged and named Fayetteville – the first city in the United States named for Lafayette and the
30 only one named for him that he actually visited; and

31 Whereas, in 1789, the General Assembly and constitutional convention met in
32 Fayetteville, North Carolina, then the State capital, where delegates ratified the United States
33 Constitution, chartered the University of North Carolina, and ceded the State's western lands to
34 form the state of Tennessee; and



1 Whereas, during Lafayette's tour of the United States as "The Guest of the Nation,"
2 he was entertained in Fayetteville on March 4-5, 1825, by the leading citizens of the State and
3 community, including Governor Hutchins G. Burton; and

4 Whereas, upon the death of Lafayette in 1834, the City of Fayetteville held a large
5 memorial service and eloquent eulogium on his character and services; and

6 Whereas, upon the bicentennial of the naming of Fayetteville in 1983, the Lafayette
7 Society and the great-great grandson of the Marquis de Lafayette, Count Rene de Chambrun,
8 unveiled a statue of General Lafayette in the Downtown Historic District; and

9 Whereas, in 2007, the City of Fayetteville honored the 250th birthday of its
10 namesake, the Marquis de Lafayette, with three days of celebration and was recognized for this
11 by the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate with a
12 proclamation stating that Fayetteville is "Where North Carolina Celebrates Lafayette's
13 Birthday," and said proclamation was officially recorded in the Congressional Record of July
14 26, 2007; and

15 Whereas, since 2007, Fayetteville has held an annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration
16 on the first Saturday in September that follows Labor Day; Now, therefore,

17 Be it resolved by the Senate:

18 **SECTION 1.** The Senate honors the memory of the Marquis de Lafayette and
19 proposes that this body proclaim the celebration held every September in Fayetteville as North
20 Carolina's official Lafayette Birthday Celebration.

21 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
22 to the Mayor of the City of Fayetteville.

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