

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

H.J.R. 1227
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30734-LG-185 (03/10)

Sponsors: Representatives Setzer, Moffitt, Howard, and Murry (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
2 STATE HIGHWAY PATROL AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO HAVE DIED
3 IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

4 Whereas, between 1921 and 1929, the number of registered vehicles in North
5 Carolina increased from 150,558 to 503,590; and

6 Whereas, on March 18, 1929, the General Assembly enacted legislation to establish
7 a State Highway Patrol to patrol the State's highways, enforce the motor vehicle laws, and
8 assist the motoring public; and

9 Whereas, the State's first Highway Patrol training school began on May 20, 1929, at
10 Camp Glenn near Morehead City; and

11 Whereas, on July 1, 1929, 37 of the 42 participants that completed the training were
12 sworn in as members of the State Highway Patrol; and

13 Whereas, initially, Patrol officers were issued Harley Davidson motorcycles,
14 lieutenants were issued Model A Ford Coupes, and the Patrol commander was issued a Buick
15 automobile; and

16 Whereas, in 1937, all Patrol officers were assigned individual vehicles, and the
17 legislature authorized a statewide radio system for the purpose of coordinating operations and
18 improving the efficiency of the Highway Patrol; and

19 Whereas, today, the State Highway Patrol consists of more than 1,600 officers and
20 over 400 civilians; and

21 Whereas, for 85 years, the State Highway Patrol has not only stayed true to its
22 mission of enforcing the State's motor vehicle laws and reducing the number of collisions on
23 North Carolina's 78,000 miles of highways but also handling other duties such as guiding
24 traffic during severe weather conditions and rerouting traffic around hazardous chemical spills;
25 and

26 Whereas, the officers of the State Highway Patrol have dutifully served the citizens
27 of this State despite the danger they often encounter; and

28 Whereas, more than 60 officers have lost their lives in the line of duty, including
29 George I. Thompson, the first State Highway Patrol officer to be killed in the line of duty.
30 Officer Thompson was killed on July 2, 1929, while riding a motorcycle on the way to his
31 assigned duty station; and

32 Whereas, on the 85th anniversary of the State Highway Patrol, it is important to
33 recognize and acknowledge this organization for its invaluable service to the citizens of North
34 Carolina; Now, therefore,

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

36 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of the members of the
37 State Highway Patrol who have lost their lives in the line of duty.



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1 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the State Highway Patrol on its
2 85th anniversary and acknowledges those who have served this organization for their
3 dedication and commitment in making North Carolina's highways safe.

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