

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H.R. 922
May 23, 2017
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE SIMPLE RESOLUTION DRHR40580-LG-96 (05/16)

Sponsors: Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

Referred to:

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION OBSERVING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MECKLENBURG
2 DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

3 Whereas, on May 19, 1775, a group of elected representatives met in Mecklenburg
4 County upon the call of Colonel Thomas Polk, commander of the County's Militia, to discuss
5 recent events relating to Great Britain; and

6 Whereas, in response to the news that colonists had been killed by the British at
7 Lexington, these officials drafted a document composed of five resolutions declaring freedom
8 for the residents of Mecklenburg County from Great Britain; and

9 Whereas, the document, later called the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence,
10 was read on the courthouse steps in Charlotte to concerned citizens from the County and
11 surrounding areas on May 20, 1775; and

12 Whereas, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was the first declaration of
13 independence made in the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution; and

14 Whereas, on May 31, 1775, a committee met to draft the Mecklenburg Resolves,
15 which were bylaws to govern the now independent citizens of Mecklenburg County; and

16 Whereas, the original Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence was purported to
17 have been destroyed in a fire, but, in 1819, the *Raleigh Register* published what was believed to
18 be the text of the original document; and

19 Whereas, May 20, 1775, is a significant date that is widely recognized by many
20 North Carolinians, as that date is honored on the Great Seal and Flag of the State of North
21 Carolina; and

22 Whereas, celebrations marking the anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of
23 Independence have been observed for over 240 years and, at times, have attracted thousands of
24 visitors, including Presidents Taft, Wilson, Eisenhower, and Ford, and other dignitaries; and

25 Whereas, the early citizens of Mecklenburg County are to be commended for their
26 independent spirit, leadership, and vision; Now, therefore,

27 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

28 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives joins the citizens of Mecklenburg
29 County in recognizing the historical significance of the patriots that had the foresight to draft
30 the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.

31 **SECTION 2.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.

