

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

**H.B. 701**  
**Apr 2, 2025**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH10310-LG-102

Short Title: Adopt Lafayette Day.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Charles Smith.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT ADOPTING THE SEVENTEENTH DAY OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS  
3 LAFAYETTE DAY.

4 Whereas, North Carolina cities and towns from the Virginia line down to the South  
5 Carolina line – including Murfreesboro, Jackson, Halifax, Enfield, Rocky Mount, Raleigh, and  
6 Fayetteville – held festive bicentennial commemorations from February 26 through March 5,  
7 2025; and

8 Whereas, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Chapter of the National  
9 Society Daughters of the American Revolution is celebrating the Bicentennial of Lafayette's  
10 Farewell Tour of America in 2024-2025; and

11 Whereas, Lafayette is known as the Hero of Two Worlds, America and France, and  
12 this celebration honors the visit to America of the last of the surviving Major Generals of the  
13 American Revolution; and

14 Whereas, in 1777 during the American Revolutionary War, the young Marquis de  
15 Lafayette first rendered service to America by traveling from France to give aid to the colonies  
16 fighting for their independence, becoming one of George Washington's most trusted major  
17 generals and considered by many to be his "adopted son"; and

18 Whereas, during Lafayette's service, undertaken at his own expense, he proved to be  
19 indispensable to the cause of American independence in both his military and diplomatic roles;  
20 and

21 Whereas, during the American Revolutionary War, the 2nd North Carolina Regiment  
22 fought at Brandywine (1777) and Monmouth Courthouse (1778), two of the numerous battles in  
23 which Lafayette led other American troops; and

24 Whereas, General Lafayette commanded an American infantry division during the  
25 Battle of Yorktown, in which his actions were key to the defeat and surrender of British General  
26 Cornwallis, a decisive American victory that caused England to recognize the United States of  
27 America as a sovereign Nation; and

28 Whereas, Lafayette was a lifelong advocate for human rights, religious liberty, racial  
29 equality, and civil rights, relinquishing his own noble title during the French Revolution and  
30 co-authoring with Thomas Jefferson France's Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen;  
31 and

32 Whereas, Lafayette was an early and consistent voice against slavery in France and  
33 in America, where he sought to persuade American friends, including George Washington,  
34 Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison, to eradicate this evil; and

35 Whereas, Lafayette supported women's rights in matters of education and divorce,  
36 endorsing and promoting the views of activists like Frances (Fanny) Wright; and



1           Whereas, during Lafayette's Farewell Tour of America in 1824-1825, he visited the  
2 then-24 states, including North Carolina, and addressed the ideals of liberty, justice, and  
3 democracy; and

4           Whereas, the State Assembly of North Carolina changed the name of the area known  
5 as "Campellton" to "Fayetteville" in honor of Lafayette on May 17, 1783, thus becoming the first  
6 state in America to do so; and

7           Whereas, the State of North Carolina should adopt an official North Carolina  
8 Lafayette Day; Now, therefore,

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10           **SECTION 1.** Chapter 103 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
11 section to read:

12 **§ 103-19. Lafayette Day.**

13           The seventeenth day of May of each year is designated as Lafayette Day in the State of North  
14 Carolina."

15           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.