

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 398

Sponsors: Representatives Sauls and Lewis (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 28, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOWN OF
2 COATS ON THE OCCASION OF THE TOWN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY.

3 Whereas, the Town of Coats was incorporated on March 4, 1905; and

4 Whereas, the Town of Coats is named for the late James Thomas Coats, also
5 known as, Elder Tom, who purchased 706 acres of land from heirs of Daniel I. and
6 Sarah Shaw; and

7 Whereas, Elder Tom Coats gave a right-of-way and land for a depot to the
8 Cape Fear and Northern Railroad in 1902, and thereafter recruited Romelus Lambert to
9 survey and lay out a town around the depot that was to be 250 acres; and

10 Whereas, J.K. Stewart was appointed as the first mayor of the town in 1905
11 and P.F. Pope followed as the first elected mayor later that year; and

12 Whereas, Elder Tom Coats built the first church in the town, Gift Primitive
13 Baptist Church, in 1909 and became the first pastor; and

14 Whereas, the Coats Brick Mill manufactured brick for the first 13 brick
15 buildings in town by 1913; and

16 Whereas, the first brick school building was built in the town in 1920; and

17 Whereas, Coats native, the late Alton Stewart, was the first licensed pilot in
18 North Carolina and had his license signed by Orville Wright on April 6, 1926; and

19 Whereas, Mrs. Addie Lee Stancil Parrish, a resident of Coats, and the last
20 Confederate widow living in Harnett County died August 20, 1979; and

21 Whereas, Coats High School consolidated with Erwin and Dunn High
22 Schools in 1985 and a celebration of the closing of the old school, known as the Coats
23 High School Reunion Project, drew in excess of 5,000 people; and

24 Whereas, a group of Coats citizens salvaged an old two-room schoolhouse
25 and converted it to a Coats History Museum in 1995; and

26 Whereas, Coats will mark its Centennial on March 4, 2005, and will dedicate
27 a Cotton Planting Museum among other planned celebrations; and

28 Whereas, the 2,000 citizens of Coats are hardworking, hospitable people who
29 are proud of their past and look forward to their future; and

1 Whereas, the centennial anniversary of the Town of Coats is worthy of
2 celebration; Now, therefore,

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

4 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of the
5 founders and early residents of the Town of Coats for their contributions to North
6 Carolina.

7 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly congratulates the Town of Coats on its
8 100th anniversary and encourages the people of this State to join the citizens of Coats in
9 celebrating this historic occasion.

10 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
11 resolution to the Mayor of the Town of Coats.

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