

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 472**

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Sponsors: Representatives Crawford and Sherrill (Primary Sponsors).

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

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March 13, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MARY  
2 LEWIS WYCHE, FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH  
3 CAROLINA NURSES ASSOCIATION AND ONE OF THE THREE NURSES  
4 APPOINTED TO THE FIRST NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF NURSE  
5 EXAMINERS, ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
6 PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

7       Whereas, in 1894, Mary Lewis Wyche, native of Vance County and graduate  
8 of Philadelphia General Hospital School of Nursing, founded North Carolina's first  
9 school of nursing at Rex Hospital in Raleigh; and

10       Whereas, on October 24, 1901, Mary Lewis Wyche called together nurses in  
11 the Raleigh area and formed the Raleigh Nurses Association; and

12       Whereas, the following year on October 28, 1902, Mary Lewis Wyche invited  
13 nurses from across the State to meet with members of the Raleigh Nurses Association,  
14 and together they founded the North Carolina State Nurses Association, now known as  
15 the North Carolina Nurses Association; and

16       Whereas, Mary Lewis Wyche, as president of the North Carolina State  
17 Nurses Association, successfully lobbied for the establishment of the first nursing laws  
18 in the United States; and

19       Whereas, the first Nursing Practice Act in the United States was signed into  
20 law on March 3, 1903, by Governor Charles Aycock; and

21       Whereas, the North Carolina Board of Nurse Examiners, now known as the  
22 Board of Nursing, became the first board of nursing in the United States; and

23       Whereas, Josephine Burton of Craven County became the first registered  
24 nurse in the United States on June 4, 1903; and

25       Whereas, Mary Rose Battenhan of Buncombe County registered as a nurse on  
26 June 5, 1903; and

27       Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina  
28 Board of Nursing are jointly celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary; and

1           Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association has worked throughout its  
2 existence to promote the profession of nursing through strengthening education and  
3 practice standards; and

4           Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association advocates both for  
5 registered nurses in their workplace and for quality care for their patients; and

6           Whereas, the North Carolina Board of Nursing ensures safe care to the public  
7 through the licensure of registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, approval of  
8 education programs, and regulation of the scope of nursing practice; and

9           Whereas, the North Carolina Board of Nursing is the only organization in the  
10 United States whose nurses elect the nurse members of the Board; and

11           Whereas, the North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina  
12 Board of Nursing, working together, serve to improve access to quality health care for  
13 the citizens of North Carolina; Now, therefore,

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

15           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Mary  
16 Lewis Wyche and expresses appreciation for the contributions she made to the State of  
17 North Carolina, the North Carolina Nurses Association and the North Carolina Board of  
18 Nursing. The General Assembly recognizes the historical accomplishments of the North  
19 Carolina Nurses Association, and the North Carolina Board of Nursing and  
20 congratulates them on 100 years of dedicated commitment to improving the health of  
21 the citizens of North Carolina and to advancing the nursing profession by promoting  
22 high standards of nursing education and nursing practice.

23           **SECTION 2.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
24 resolution to the President of the North Carolina Nurses Association and the Chairman  
25 of the North Carolina Board of Nursing.

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