

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1987 SESSION  
RATIFIED BILL

RESOLUTION 3  
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 62

A JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING FEBRUARY 28, 1987, TO BE "MARY LYON DAY" IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH OF MARY LYON, THE FOUNDER OF MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE AND WHEATON COLLEGE.

Whereas, Mary Lyon was born in Buckland, Massachusetts, on February 28, 1797, the fourth daughter and sixth child of Aaron and Jemima Lyon; and

Whereas, Mary Lyon was motivated throughout her life by her religious conviction and a belief in the importance of education; and

Whereas, in 1817, using her earnings from teaching summer schools and a modest inheritance, she enrolled in Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, Massachusetts, where she was exposed to advanced subjects and new ideas; and

Whereas, in 1824 she opened her first school in Buckland, Massachusetts; and

Whereas, after three years of exhaustive planning and tireless fund-raising, Mary Lyon realized her mission to found an institution of higher learning for women with the opening of Mount Holyoke Seminary on November 8, 1837, in South Hadley, Massachusetts; and

Whereas, Mary Lyon introduced two innovations to women's education: high academic entrance requirements followed by a demanding curriculum, and an endowment to ensure the school's permanence after her death in 1849; and

Whereas, Mount Holyoke has continued to this day, one hundred fifty years after its founding, to stand for excellence in women's education; and

Whereas, many North Carolina women have graduated from Mount Holyoke College and from Wheaton College, which she also founded in Norton, Massachusetts;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

Section 1. The General Assembly of North Carolina declares February 28, 1987, as "Mary Lyon Day" in honor of Mary Lyon, the founder of Mount Holyoke College and Wheaton College, on the month and day of her birth for her outstanding contribution to the higher education of women.

Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26th day of February, 1987.

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Robert B. Jordan III  
President of the Senate

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Liston B. Ramsey  
Speaker of the House of Representatives