

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1495

Sponsors: Senator Horton.

Referred to: Rules Suspended; Passed 2nd and 3rd Readings; Sent to House.

June 21, 1996

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF GOVERNOR
2 JOHN MOTLEY MOREHEAD ON THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
3 OF HIS BIRTH.

4 Whereas, the State of North Carolina has benefitted greatly from the life and
5 legacy of service that John Motley Morehead left to all the people of this State; and

6 Whereas, John Motley Morehead, the eldest son of John and Obedience
7 Motley Morehead, was born on July 4, 1796, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia; and

8 Whereas, at the age of two, John Motley Morehead's family moved to
9 Rockingham County, North Carolina; and

10 Whereas, after graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1817,
11 John Motley Morehead began to study law, later practicing law in Rockingham and
12 Guilford Counties; and

13 Whereas, John Motley Morehead married Ann Eliza Lindsay in 1821, and
14 was the father of eight children: Letitia Harper Morehead, Mary Corinna Morehead,
15 Ann Eliza Morehead, Mary Louise Morehead, Emma Victoria Morehead, John Lindsay
16 Morehead, James Turner Morehead, and Eugene Lindsay Morehead; and

17 Whereas, John Motley Morehead settled his family in Guilford County and
18 erected his "Blandwood" home in 1825, which is preserved as a National Historic
19 Landmark; and

20 Whereas, John Motley Morehead was a true statesman, serving in the House
21 of Commons in 1821, 1826, 1827, and 1858, in the Senate in 1860, in the Provisional
22 Congress and the Peace Conference in 1861, and as a delegate to the State
23 Constitutional Convention in 1835; and

1 Whereas, John Motley Morehead served as Governor of North Carolina from
2 1841 to 1845; and

3 Whereas, John Motley Morehead was an advocate of a system of free public
4 schools and it was during his tenure as Governor that the State established its first
5 public school system; and

6 Whereas, John Motley Morehead served as a Trustee of the University of
7 North Carolina for 38 years; and

8 Whereas, John Motley Morehead's other noted accomplishments include:

- 9 - The founding of the Edgeworth Female Seminary, a privately owned
- 10 school for women in Greensboro;
- 11 - The founding of the North Carolina Railroad of which he served as its
- 12 first president;
- 13 - The establishment of the first cotton mill in Rockingham County;
- 14 - The founding of a deepwater port on the coast of North Carolina that
- 15 was named Morehead City in his honor;
- 16 - The establishment of the Governor Morehead School in Raleigh;
- 17 - The introduction of bills to improve the living conditions of slaves and
- 18 also of a bill granting emancipation to slaves under certain conditions
- 19 prior to the Civil War; and

20 Whereas, John Motley Morehead died on August 27, 1866; and

21 Whereas, on the 200th Anniversary of John Motley Morehead's birth, it is
22 fitting that the General Assembly honors his life and memory by recognizing the many
23 benefits bestowed to North Carolina due to the great leadership and accomplishments of
24 Governor John Motley Morehead;

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

26 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of John
27 Motley Morehead. The General Assembly urges the citizens of this State to participate
28 in all activities marking the 200th Anniversary of John Motley Morehead's birth.

29 Sec. 2. A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted by the Secretary of
30 State to the family of John Motley Morehead.

31 Sec. 3. This resolution is effective upon ratification.