

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2003**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR65321-LG-164 (05/20)**

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Sponsors:    Senator Rand.

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF ORVILLE AND  
2    WILBUR WRIGHT AND ENCOURAGING THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE TO  
3    RECOGNIZE 2003 AS THE AVIATION CENTENNIAL YEAR IN NORTH  
4    CAROLINA.

5            Whereas, on December 17, 1903, at 10:35 A.M. near Kitty Hawk, North  
6    Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first successful powered heavier-than-air  
7    flight, which lasted 12 seconds and traveled 120 feet; and

8            Whereas, a few years prior to the first flight, William Tate, Postmaster of  
9    Kitty Hawk, corresponded with the Wright brothers and encouraged them to test their  
10   experimental machine at the Outer Banks and later provided them with shelter in his  
11   home; and

12           Whereas, witnesses to the first flight were Kill Devil Hill Life Saving Station  
13   members John T. Daniels, Will S. Dough, and Adam D. Etheridge and Outer Banks  
14   inhabitants W.C. Brinkley and Johnny Moore; and

15           Whereas, John T. Daniels took photographs of the first flight, providing the  
16   world with proof that this event took place that December morning; and

17           Whereas, the Wright brothers' flight, a monumental innovation of the 20<sup>th</sup>  
18   century, made a significant impact in our daily lives; and

19           Whereas, the development of flight changed the delivery of mail and goods;  
20   methods of travel, transportation, communications, and warfare; agriculture production;  
21   emergency medical services; law enforcement; environmental protection; search and  
22   rescue; and disaster relief; and

23           Whereas, aviation led to the development of aerospace technology, allowing  
24   space exploration and lunar landings and the creation of the international space station;  
25   and

26           Whereas, in 2001, the United States' aerospace and aviation industry  
27   employed more than two million people, and in 2000, the industry had a payroll of \$98  
28   billion; and

1           Whereas, in 2001, the aerospace and aviation industry ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in North  
2 Carolina, providing over 38,000 jobs with a payroll of \$1.6 billion; and

3           Whereas, military aviation has an economic impact of more than \$4 billion a  
4 year in North Carolina; and

5           Whereas, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first flight, the 105<sup>th</sup>  
6 Congress declared 2003 as the Aviation Centennial Year in America; and

7           Whereas, during 2003, activities have been planned throughout the nation to  
8 mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this historic flight; and

9           Whereas, in North Carolina, the City of Fayetteville hosted the Festival of  
10 Flight May 10-26, 2003, which featured such activities as an arts festival, a military air  
11 show at Pope Air Force Base, and an exposition with aviation displays and interactive  
12 exhibits; and

13           Whereas, North Carolina's First Flight Centennial Commission plans to  
14 commemorate the first flight with displays, aerial performances, and a reenactment of  
15 the December 17, 1903, flights at the Wright Brothers National Memorial; and

16           Whereas, the people of North Carolina are proud to live in the State where  
17 humankind's first flight took place; and

18           Whereas, it is only fitting that 2003 be recognized as the Aviation Centennial  
19 Year in North Carolina; Now, therefore,

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

21           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Orville and  
22 Wilbur Wright and expresses its appreciation for the contributions they made to  
23 aviation.

24           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly encourages the citizens of the State to  
25 participate in activities commemorating the first flight and to join together in celebrating  
26 2003 as the Aviation Centennial Year in North Carolina.

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