

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

H

1

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 681*

Sponsors: Representatives Coates and McCombs (Primary Sponsors).

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

March 26, 2003

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROWAN
2 COUNTY AND THE MEMORY OF MATTHEW ROWAN.

3 Whereas, Rowan County was established 250 years ago on April 12, 1753,
4 through an act of the General Assembly of North Carolina; and

5 Whereas, Rowan County, named for Matthew Rowan, an acting governor,
6 continues to act in the best interest of those who govern her, the people; and

7 Whereas, this county has played a significant role in the development of all of
8 North Carolina and her people:

9 (1) First serving as home to important Yadkin riverbank dwellings of
10 Native Americans, including the Guatari, Catawba, and Sapona, host
11 to explorers of the North American Continent, including Juan Pardo,
12 John Lawson, and John Lederer.

13 (2) Becoming the crossroads of the colonial era backcountry, where the
14 Great Wagon Road met the Indian Trading Path, bringing a flood of
15 German and Scots-Irish immigrants to be neighbors.

16 (3) Emerging as a gateway for the next westward movement into the new
17 frontiers of Tennessee, Kentucky, and beyond.

18 (4) Later developing into one of the most productive agricultural centers
19 in North Carolina, being among the State's first adopters of what was
20 called "scientific farming".

21 (5) Later helping to build the industrial base of the State, providing a
22 home to early textile mills, mining, quarrying, and a major railway
23 repair facility.

24 (6) More currently leading the way in the development of an impressive
25 quality of life infrastructure, including historic preservation,
26 county-run recreation, farmland preservation, arts programs, greenway
27 building, and public access to Internet technologies; and

28 Whereas, Rowan County, formed from Anson County and once able to claim
29 the farthest west county seat of any government in the young nation, her western border
30 left simply to be marked by the wanderlust and courage of her citizenry, has supplied

1 and continues to supply leaders in public service, journalism, commerce, the arts, and
2 education who, like their forebears, continue to press upon borders and seek new
3 challenges, striving all the while to build a better place for themselves and their
4 families; and

5 Whereas, it is appropriate that the citizens of this county, including her 10
6 incorporated municipalities, set aside April 12, 2003, to mark the milestone of the
7 County's 250th birthday; and

8 Whereas, the citizens shall celebrate this event throughout 2003 with a
9 parade, appearances by dignitaries and celebrities, military jet flyovers, and other events
10 right and proper for the occasion, a celebration that should be enjoyed and supported by
11 all citizens of this great State; Now, therefore,

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

13 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Matthew
14 Rowan, takes official notice of the good works of the citizens of Rowan County this
15 past quarter of a millennium, and extends its appreciation for the role they have played
16 in building and sustaining the Tar Heel State.

17 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly commends unto the citizens of North
18 Carolina the opportunity to join the people of Rowan County in their memorial
19 festivities and urges their participation.

20 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
21 resolution to the Chair of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners.

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