

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2001**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1368
Rules and Operations of the Senate Committee Substitute Adopted 7/24/02**

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 12, 2002

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF MYRTLE
2 ELEANOR "LULU BELLE" COOPER WISEMAN STAMEY, FORMER
3 MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND CELEBRATING THE YEAR
4 OF APPALACHIA.

5 Whereas, the Appalachian region has a unique and rich culture; and

6 Whereas, July 2002 through July 2003 has been designated the "Year of
7 Appalachia", a celebration that will commence with the 75th anniversary of the Bristol
8 recordings of Appalachian music and culminate with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival
9 in Washington, D.C.; and

10 Whereas, legislation has been introduced in Congress designating July 2002
11 through July 2003 as the Year of Appalachia; and

12 Whereas, several of the thirteen states in the Appalachian region have
13 adopted legislation proclaiming the Year of Appalachia with the remaining states
14 planning to adopt similar measures; and

15 Whereas, various activities have been planned throughout the Appalachian
16 region to celebrate the region's culture and heritage, including performances featuring
17 traditional mountain music, dance, and crafts; and

18 Whereas, the Year of Appalachia will promote regional economic
19 development through increased cultural and heritage tourism; and

20 Whereas, during the Year of Appalachia the General Assembly would like to
21 pay tribute to one of the State's most renown music performers, Myrtle Eleanor "Lulu
22 Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey; and

23 Whereas, Lulu Belle was born on December 24, 1913, in Boone, North
24 Carolina, to John Reed Cooper and Sydney Knupp Cooper; and

25 Whereas, when she was a teenager, Lulu Belle and her family moved to
26 Illinois; and

27 Whereas, Lulu Belle began working as a singer and comedienne with Red
28 Foley at age 19 on WLS Chicago's National Barn Dance, the most popular folk and
29 country music radio program at that time; and

1 Whereas, Lulu Belle was later paired on the show with Scotty Wiseman,
2 another North Carolinian, whom she married in 1934; and

3 Whereas, during the 1930s, Lulu Belle and Scotty's popularity helped attract
4 large numbers of people to country music; and

5 Whereas, Lulu Belle and Scotty were known as the "Sweethearts of Country
6 Music"; and

7 Whereas, in 1936, Lulu Belle was voted National Radio Queen by Radio
8 Guide's readers; and

9 Whereas, Lulu Belle and Scotty performed on the National Barn Dance for
10 almost 20 years, appeared together on several television shows and in seven motion
11 pictures, and recorded several albums; and

12 Whereas, from 1949 to 1957, Lulu Belle and Scotty hosted their own daily
13 television program on WNBQ in Chicago; and

14 Whereas, Lulu Belle and Scotty retired from entertaining in 1958 and moved
15 back to North Carolina; and

16 Whereas, during the 1960s and 1970s, Lulu Belle and Scotty performed
17 occasionally for events sponsored by the Country Music Association and the Grand Ole
18 Opry; and

19 Whereas, during the 1970s, Lulu Belle became active in politics and was
20 elected to the House of Representatives where she represented the people of Avery,
21 Burke, and Mitchell Counties from 1975 through 1978; and

22 Whereas, during her lifetime, Lulu Belle gave freely of her time to numerous
23 organizations, volunteered for the American Red Cross, and taught home nursing and
24 craft classes; and

25 Whereas, Lulu Belle was active in the Pine Grove Methodist Church; and

26 Whereas, Lulu Belle was a loving mother to her two children, Linda and
27 Steven, and a doting grandmother; and

28 Whereas, Lulu Belle lost her husband, Scotty, in 1981, and in 1983, married
29 lifelong friend, Ernest Stamey; and

30 Whereas, Lulu Belle recorded a solo album in 1986; and

31 Whereas, Lulu Belle made great contributions to country music and helped
32 pave the way for other female artists; and

33 Whereas, Lulu Belle died on February 8, 1999; Now, therefore,

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

35 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Myrtle
36 Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey for the service she rendered to the State
37 of North Carolina and for the invaluable contributions she made to country music.

38 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to the
39 family of Myrtle Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey for the loss of a
40 beloved family member.

41 **SECTION 3.** The General Assembly encourages the citizens of this State to
42 participate in the activities planned to celebrate the "Year of Appalachia".

1 **SECTION 4.** The Secretary of State shall transmit certified copies of this
2 resolution to the family of Myrtle Eleanor "Lulu Belle" Cooper Wiseman Stamey and
3 the Birthplace of Country Music Alliance.

4 **SECTION 5.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.