

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 1259

Sponsors: Representative Setzer (Primary Sponsor).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

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

June 10, 2014

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE PARTICIPANTS AND SUPPORTERS OF
2 THE CITY OF NEWTON'S ANNUAL SOLDIERS REUNION ON THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNION.

4 Whereas, the City of Newton was incorporated by the General Assembly in 1855,
5 and was named for Newton Wilson, the son of Nathaniel Wilson, a former member of the
6 General Assembly who sponsored the bill to create Catawba County; and

7 Whereas, one of the City's oldest traditions includes the annual Soldiers Reunion,
8 which began on July 4, 1889, when Civil War veterans gathered for recognition of their
9 wartime efforts and to receive their pensions; and

10 Whereas, these veterans received a warm reception from Newton's Mayor L.L.
11 Witherspoon and the City's citizens; and

12 Whereas, after that first gathering, veterans began holding annual reunions in
13 Newton, resulting in the popular Soldiers Reunion, which is believed to be the longest
14 continuous patriotic celebration in the country; and

15 Whereas, the Soldiers Reunion is a weeklong celebration held the third week of
16 each August and attracts approximately 10,000 visitors to downtown Newton; and

17 Whereas, this year's Soldiers Reunion will be observed from August 17 to August
18 24 and will feature the Soldiers Reunion Parade and other family friendly activities and events
19 for veterans and the entire community; and

20 Whereas, the Soldiers Reunion is sponsored by the American Legion Post No. 16
21 and the Newton Merchants Association, with additional events hosted by the City of Newton
22 Parks and Recreation Department; and

23 Whereas, 2014 marks the 125th anniversary of the Soldiers Reunion, an occasion
24 worthy of recognition and celebration; Now, therefore,

25 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

26 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of the veterans,
27 who began the Soldiers Reunion, and the City of Newton's past leaders for showing their
28 support for veterans.

29 **SECTION 2.** The House of Representatives joins the City of Newton and the
30 participants of the Soldiers Reunion in observing the Reunion's 125th anniversary.

31 **SECTION 3.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
32 to the City of Newton, American Legion Post No. 16, and the Newton Merchants Association.

33 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.

