

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1225

Sponsors: Senators Garwood and Moore.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

May 15, 2000

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVEREND
2 EDGAR TUFTS, FOUNDER OF LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE IN BANNER ELK,
3 ON THE ONE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLLEGE.

4 Whereas, in 1895, Edgar Tufts, a student at the Union Theological Seminary in
5 Virginia, was sent by the Concord Presbytery to organize a church in Banner Elk, North
6 Carolina; and

7 Whereas, in 1897, newly ordained Reverend Edgar Tufts returned to Banner
8 Elk and became pastor of that church; and

9 Whereas, during the winter of 1899, Reverend Tufts, concerned about the
10 limited educational opportunities for students living in his community, took it upon
11 himself to provide further instruction to these students; and

12 Whereas, Reverend Tufts felt that his efforts were not enough, especially for
13 girls, and set out to establish a boarding school; and

14 Whereas, in 1900, with donations of money, lumber, and labor, a dormitory to
15 house fourteen female students and a teacher was opened; and

16 Whereas, the school was named McRae Institute in honor of Elizabeth A.
17 McRae, a summer school teacher who was devoted to her work; and

18 Whereas, a few years later, Reverend Tufts opened a similar school for boys in
19 Plumtree, North Carolina; and

20 Whereas, the name of both the girls' and boys' schools became Lees-McRae to
21 honor Mrs. S. P. Lees, who was a generous benefactor; and

1 Whereas, in 1907, the schools were chartered by the State of North Carolina as
2 Lees-McRae Institute; and

3 Whereas, in 1927, the separate schools were merged as a coeducational facility
4 in Banner Elk; and

5 Whereas, in 1931, Lees-McRae Institute became a two-year college and in
6 1990, Lees-McRae College became a fully-accredited baccalaureate institution; and

7 Whereas, for 100 years, Lees-McRae College has provided the students of
8 North Carolina, particularly those in the western part of the State, with a quality, values-
9 based education; Now, therefore,

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

11 Section 1. The General Assembly honors the life and memory of Reverend
12 Edgar Tufts on the one hundredth anniversary of Lees-McRae College.

13 Section 2. The General Assembly joins Lees-McRae College in recognizing
14 September 26, 2000, as Edgar Tufts Day

15 Section 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
16 resolution to the President of Lees-McRae College.

17 Section 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.