

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003**

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION DRHJR30351-LG-166* (05/23)

Sponsors: Representative Coates.

Referred to:

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF REVERENDS
2 ADOLPHEUS NUSSMAN AND GOTTFRIED ARENDS ON THE 200TH
3 ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH CAROLINA SYNOD OF THE
4 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA.

5 Whereas, on November 15, 2003, the North Carolina Synod of the
6 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will celebrate its 200th anniversary; and

7 Whereas, the North Carolina Synod is the second oldest Lutheran Synod in
8 the United States; and

9 Whereas, during the 1770s, German immigrants who had settled in the
10 Piedmont area of North Carolina felt a need to have their own pastor and schoolteacher;
11 and

12 Whereas, the German Lutheran Church sent Reverend Adolpheus Nussman
13 and teacher Gottfried Arends to North Carolina in 1773; and

14 Whereas, Gottfried Arends, who also had theological training, became an
15 ordained minister in 1775; and

16 Whereas, by 1783, Reverend Nussman was the pastor of three churches, each
17 with a school, and the supervisor of 25 missions across North Carolina; and

18 Whereas, in 1803, the North Carolina Synod was organized to provide
19 congregations with adequately prepared ministers; and

20 Whereas, Reverend Arends served as the synod's first bishop; and

21 Whereas, in the early years, the synod struggled with the issues of slavery,
22 German heritage and language, and the structure of worship, but the synod managed to
23 prosper despite differences of opinion; and

24 Whereas, in the late 1800s, the synod began supporting higher education and
25 foreign missions and allowing lay people, especially women, to take a more active role
26 in the Lutheran church; and

1 Whereas, the Lutheran population had increased dramatically in North
2 Carolina by the 1960s, allowing the synod to provide centralized programs, resources,
3 training, advice, and other services to local ministries; and

4 Whereas, the synod has responded to the changing demographics of the State
5 by developing policies to improve its outreach to African-Americans and Latinos; and

6 Whereas, the synod has grown from four pastors in 14 congregations to 455
7 leaders in 241 congregations; and

8 Whereas, it is only fitting to acknowledge the 200th anniversary of the North
9 Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Now, therefore,

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of Reverend
12 Adolpheus Nussman and Reverend Gottfried Arends for their roles in the development
13 of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

14 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sincere congratulations to
15 the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on its 200th
16 anniversary.

17 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a copy of this resolution
18 to the Bishop of the North Carolina Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in
19 America.

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