

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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SENATE RESOLUTION 783

Sponsors: Senators White; Atwater, Jenkins, Mansfield, Robinson, and Walters.

Referred to: Calendar 6-14-11.

June 14, 2011

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATING OCTOBER
2 2011 AS NORTH CAROLINA SOARING HERITAGE MONTH.

3 Whereas, Dare County has a rich heritage in the development of both powered and
4 nonpowered flight with the Wright brothers' flight experiments in Kitty Hawk and Big Kill
5 Devil Hill; and

6 Whereas, gliding and soaring are the most natural and environmentally friendly
7 forms of flight, relying on the dynamics of natural entities, such as wind, temperature, and
8 thermals for power and propulsion; and

9 Whereas, the gliding and soaring experiments of Orville and Wilbur Wright in Kitty
10 Hawk, beginning in 1900, were instrumental in the execution of the first powered flight in
11 1903; and

12 Whereas, the Wright brothers' continued design, stability, and safety-focused
13 experiments on the Outer Banks made possible Orville Wright's nine minute and forty-five
14 second glider flight in 1911; and

15 Whereas, the 1911 glider flight set a world record for soaring that stood for 10
16 years; and

17 Whereas, the 1911 glider experiments were the last true field experiments for the
18 Wright brothers and their last work on the Outer Banks; and

19 Whereas, the Wright brothers chose the Outer Banks as the location for their gliding
20 and soaring experiments because of the area's steady winds, soft sands, and hospitable
21 residents; and

22 Whereas, soaring has made "flying" more accessible and affordable to the public;
23 and

24 Whereas, Jockey's Ridge State Park, home of the highest live sand dune on the East
25 Coast, has been a center for soaring-related flight and soaring-related flight instruction for
26 nearly 40 years and is being designated a National Landmark of Soaring administered by the
27 National Soaring Museum; and

28 Whereas, Soaring 100, the centennial celebration of Orville Wright's glider flight on
29 October 24, 1911, presents entertaining, cultural, historic, and educational events and
30 opportunities for the general public and aviation enthusiasts, novice to professional; and

31 Whereas, Soaring 100 invites international attention and participation in observance
32 of the Wright brothers' work on the Outer Banks; and

33 Whereas, the Soaring 100 commemoration is a collaboration of State and federal
34 entities and the Outer Banks community volunteers supportive of two of North Carolina's most
35 significant attractions (Jockey's Ridge State Park and the Wright Brothers National Memorial),
36 located in Dare County, that are combining their resources as the host sites for Soaring 100
37 events; and



1 Whereas, the First Flight Foundation is joined by the First Flight Society, the
2 Rogallo Foundation, and Outer Banks Visitors Bureau to commemorate the 100th anniversary
3 of the 1911 world record glider flight, October 21-24, 2011, in partnership with The Soaring
4 Society of America, NASA, United States Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, the
5 Foundation for Free Flight, the National Soaring Museum, the Vintage Sailplane Association,
6 and the Academy of Model Aeronautics; and

7 Whereas, Soaring 100 continues the legacy of the Wright brothers through another
8 chapter in aviation history; Now, therefore,

9 Be it resolved by the Senate:

10 **SECTION 1.** The Senate recognizes the contributions of the Wright brothers and
11 the Outer Banks in the development of soaring as a science, a sport, and a distinct field of
12 aviation.

13 **SECTION 2.** The Senate supports designating October 2011 as Soaring Heritage
14 Month and encourages all citizens of North Carolina to learn about the State's aviation heritage.

15 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.