

**As Introduced**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2013-2014**

**H. C. R. No. 63**

**Representative Perales**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Rosenberger, Butler, O'Brien, Barborak,  
Baker, Buchy, Ruhl, Thompson, Adams, R., Brenner, Terhar, Strahorn,  
Winburn, Bishoff, Damschroder**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To repudiate the claim by the State of Connecticut 1  
that Gustave Whitehead successfully flew a 2  
powered, heavier than air machine of his own 3  
design on August 14, 1901, or on any other date. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE  
OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, From time to time some individuals, publishers, and 5  
lawmakers revive the claim that Gustave Whitehead (1874-1927), a 6  
resident of Connecticut, made a sustained, powered flight in a 7  
heavier than air machine at Bridgeport on August 14, 1901, two 8  
years before the Wright brothers of Dayton, Ohio, flew on December 9  
17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; and 10

WHEREAS, The Governor of Connecticut signed into law on June 11  
26, 2013, "an Act Concerning Government Administration"; and 12

WHEREAS, The law replaces the Wright brothers with Gustave 13  
Whitehead as the person to be honored for the first powered flight 14  
on Connecticut's Powered Flight Day each year; and 15

WHEREAS, The law provides no evidence that Gustave Whitehead 16  
ever designed, built, and flew a successful powered flying 17

machine; and 18

WHEREAS, Scholarly research by respected and academically 19  
credentialed historians over many decades have found no evidence 20  
to substantiate the Whitehead claims; and 21

WHEREAS, A publicized digital image, purported to be an 22  
enhanced copy of a photograph that shows Gustave Whitehead's 1901 23  
machine in flight, reveals only indistinct shapes; and 24

WHEREAS, The North Carolina General Assembly previously 25  
repudiated a similar claim in 1985; and 26

WHEREAS, The states of Ohio and North Carolina share and 27  
cherish the legacy of the Wright brothers, who lived and built the 28  
first powered airplane in Dayton, Ohio, and made their first 29  
powered flight on December 17, 1903, in Kitty Hawk, North 30  
Carolina; and 31

WHEREAS, The United States National Park Service preserves 32  
the factual history of the invention of the airplane and the first 33  
powered flights in the Wright Brothers National Memorial at Kill 34  
Devil Hills, North Carolina, and the Dayton Aviation Heritage 35  
National Historical Park and the National Aviation Heritage Area 36  
in southwestern Ohio; now therefore be it 37

RESOLVED, That Gustave Whitehead did not fly a powered, 38  
heavier than air machine of his own design on August 14, 1901, or 39  
on any other date; and be it further 40

RESOLVED, That the citizens of North Carolina and Ohio invite 41  
the citizens of Connecticut to learn the truth about the invention 42  
of the airplane and the first powered flights by visiting the 43  
Wright Brothers National Memorial in North Carolina and the Dayton 44  
Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and the National 45  
Aviation Heritage Area in Ohio. 46