

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1822

A Resolution recognizing the historical significance of Higley Cabin as the birthplace of our Kansas state song, "Home on the Range" and encouraging Kansas school children to support preservation of this historic site through the statewide "Coins for the Cabin" initiative.

WHEREAS, Dr. Brewster Higley, a frontier doctor, penned a six-verse poem titled "My Western Home" in 1872 near his home along the banks of Beaver Creek in Smith County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The poem was first published in *The Smith County Pioneer* in 1873; and set to music later that same year by Kansans Daniel Kelley and the Harlan brothers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Higley's song became known as "Home on the Range" and quickly became a national treasure. In 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared "Home on the Range" as his favorite song; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Legislature adopted Higley's song as the Kansas state song on June 30, 1947; and

WHEREAS, Higley Cabin was named to the National Register of Historic Places; and has remained at its original location, and open to the public, for more than a century because of the foresight and generosity of landowners Pete and Ellen Rust; and

WHEREAS, Kansans, throughout the years, including members of the Smith County Rotary Club, the Rust family, the Ellen Rust Living Trust and area farmers, have volunteered their time and resources to protect Higley Cabin; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the 140th anniversary of Dr. Higley's poem: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That the historical significance of Higley Cabin be recognized and revered as the birthplace of our Kansas state song, "Home on the Range"; and

Be it further resolved: That the Ellen Rust Living Trust and artist Gary Hawk be commended for their leadership on "Coins for the Cabin," an effort to generate the financial resources needed to restore Higley Cabin and protect its rightful place in American history; and

Be it further resolved: That Kansas schoolchildren be encouraged by their teachers, parents, classmates and community leaders to partake in the statewide "Coins for the Cabin" effort and this opportunity to learn more about the significance of Higley Cabin to our state's history; and

Be it further resolved: That Kansans everywhere join our state's schoolchildren in supporting the "Coins for the Cabin" effort and this important opportunity to preserve Higley Cabin for future generations; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to the Ellen Rust Living Trust, one enrolled copy to Mr. El Dean Holthus, one enrolled copy to Mr. Gary Hawk and one enrolled copy to the Kansas State Historical Society.

Senate Resolution No. 1822 was sponsored by Senators Bob Marshall and Allen C. Schmidt.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.