

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1745

A RESOLUTION honoring the 150th anniversary of Abilene, Kansas.

WHEREAS, 2019 marks the 150th anniversary of Abilene, a city in Dickinson County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1857, town founder Timothy Hersey first arrived in Abilene. He returned in 1858 with his wife, Elizabeth, and the beginning of his growing family; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Hersey is credited with naming the town of Abilene after opening her Bible to Luke 3:1, where the word Abilene is mentioned as a province of Judaea, meaning beautiful area or city of the plains; and

WHEREAS, In the 1860s, Bently Holiday established his Overland Stage Line through Abilene; and

WHEREAS, In 1867, Joseph McCoy, a young cattle dealer from Illinois, decided Abilene was a perfect location for a successful railhead. He built the Drovers Cottage and Great Western stockyards and promoted the railhead to Texas cattlemen; and

WHEREAS, In September 1867, herds of cattle began arriving in Abilene on the Chisholm Trail and, between 1867 and 1871, hundreds of thousands of cattle arrived in Abilene and were shipped out by rail; and

WHEREAS, The City of Abilene was officially incorporated on September 3, 1869; and

WHEREAS, By 1870, Abilene had significantly grown to the point that a marshal was needed to keep order and Thomas J. Smith was appointed to the position. Smith would later lose his life to an assailant's bullet, leading to the hiring of one of the best gunmen in the west, James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, in 1871; and

WHEREAS, David Eisenhower returned to Abilene in the 1890s with his family, including son, Dwight D. Eisenhower, future 5-Star General and President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Abilene was home to many entrepreneurs including C.L. Brown, C.W. Parker and A.L. Duckwall, and to this day, the city continues to foster an environment for positive economic growth for its entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, Abilene is full of rich history, beautiful homes, successful businesses and kind people; and

WHEREAS, Abilene continues to be one of the "Best Small Towns to Visit" and "Best Historic Small Towns" in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Abilene residents and visitors alike look forward to the city's continued success in the next 150 years: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we honor the 150th anniversary of Abilene, celebrate Abilene's success and urge residents and visitors to celebrate by visiting one of the city's many historic attractions, doing business in Abilene, and supporting the city's efforts to remain a vibrant city on the plains; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Hardy.

Senate Resolution No. 1745 was sponsored by Senator Randall Hardy.

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.