

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1857

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Harold and Elva Mae Dyck.

WHEREAS, Harold and Elva Mae Dyck will be honored on June 10 at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Hesston at a 20th Anniversary Tribute Dinner; and

WHEREAS, The arboretum was a gift of Harold and Elva Mae Dyck. The dream for the arboretum began in the mid 1970's after a visit to the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine. They began talking about what an arboretum featuring native Kansas plants and trees could mean to the community and to the state. It was their hope that the arboretum would encourage a better understanding of and appreciation for the open prairies and the simple beauty of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The site chosen for the arboretum was adjacent to Schowalter Villa and one block south of the Hesston College campus. They wanted it to be close enough to the Villa and the college so that residents and students could walk in it and enjoy it throughout the year. Because of the Dyck's desire to see the arboretum operated as a nonprofit educational facility, Hesston College was chosen as the operating organization. Planning for the project began in the late 1970's with the help of Planning Development Services, a Wichita firm, and the Kansas State University horticultural department. Landscape architect Tim Hanson designed the project. Ted Brantingham oversaw the project from 1984 to 1985 and the following individuals have served as directors of the arboretum; Joe Oppe (1985-87); Jim Locklear (1989-94); Larry Vickerman (1994-2000) and Julie Irish Torseth (2000 to present); and

WHEREAS, The first tree of the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains was planted October 11, 1981, on the 13 acres that comprise the current gardens. Now in its 20th year, the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains has matured into one of the largest native plant gardens in the region and features more than 600 types of native and adaptable plants, including trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. It will continue to grow as an additional 18 acres called the "Prairie Window Project" is developed south of the present site; and

WHEREAS, In 1999 a Visitor and Education Center was completed after a successful capital campaign. This past year the arboretum attracted 14,000 visitors from 36 states and nine countries: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Harold and Elva Mae Dyck for their vision of an Arboretum of the Plains, for their continued dedication to this project and for the pleasure they have given to those viewing native Kansas plants and trees at the arboretum; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dyck at 223 Lake Vista Circle, Hesston, Kansas 67062.

Senate Resolution No. 1857 was sponsored by Senator Christine Downey.

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

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*