

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1868

A RESOLUTION proclaiming and celebrating the sesquicentennial of Humboldt, Kansas.

WHEREAS, Humboldt, Kansas, a Free State town, was founded May 10, 1857, by a German colony, under the auspices of the New England Aid Company whose purpose was to establish Free State towns at a crucial time in the history of our nation when attempts were being made by pro-slavers to cause the Kansas Territory to enter the Union as a slave state; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt's citizens voted for a Free State prior to Kansas' entry into the Union as a Free State; and

WHEREAS, Through diligent efforts of Free Staters J.A. Coffey and N.B. Blanton, Humboldt acquired the U.S. Land Office from 1861 to 1872 and, because of its enterprising Free State citizens and supportive community of Free State farmers, Humboldt grew and prospered, establishing itself as a prominent town in southeast Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt's women showed great courage, surviving a Confederate raid on September 8, 1861, while their men were fighting bravely in the Civil War in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt was a haven for fugitive slaves, although some were found hiding in Humboldt during the September Confederate raid and were captured and returned to Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt survived, with the help from churches, Masons and other fellow citizens, an attack by Confederate troops on October 14, 1861, which burned residences and businesses and displaced 40 families; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt became the home of Aunt Polly Crosby, who was born to slaves in Alabama during the Battle of Mobile. Crosby came to Humboldt, had many friends among the citizenry of Humboldt, and established the Poplar Grove Baptist Church at her cabin in 1879 and became the first Mother of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt, throughout its 150 years, has endured panics and enjoyed prosperity, established well-attended, active, and serving churches, produced accomplished and successful graduates in its outstanding schools, developed nationally recognized industries, stores, and other businesses and professions, and maintained service organizations that work together to strengthen their community. Humboldt has been represented in each war involving our nation by service men and women, guided by elected and appointed community leaders, maintained by a police force and protected by volunteer firemen; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt, for 50 years, has celebrated Biblesta, a community sponsored event that exemplifies the faith of Humboldt through music, sharing of food, and a unique Bible parade, in which participants create floats depicting Old and New Testament scripture: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we do hereby proclaim May 10, 2007, as the sesquicentennial anniversary of Humboldt, Kansas; that we celebrate the rich legacy, progress, and achievements of Humboldt; and that we honor those who helped shape the direction and future of the community; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide 10 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Derek Schmidt for presentation to representatives of Humboldt, Kansas.

Senate Resolution No. 1868 was sponsored by Senator Derek Schmidt.

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.*