

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1882

A RESOLUTION proclaiming and celebrating the 150th anniversary of the city of De Soto.

WHEREAS, The City of De Soto was laid out in the spring of 1857 and was named for the Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, and The De Soto Town Company was organized on October 3, 1857; and

WHEREAS, The land, part of the Louisiana Purchase, cost the U.S. three cents an acre, and was given to John Possum, a Shawnee Indian. In 1858, John and Hattie Possum sold the first tract of that land, 80 acres, to John F. Legate, S. Todd and Stratton and Williams at the rate of \$15 per acre, for a total sale of \$1,200. The next sale was 80 acres to the De Soto Town Company in July of 1861 for \$1,176; and

WHEREAS, Major James B. Abbott is also remembered as one of the town's pioneer landowners and the builder of Abbott Hall, located at 83rd Street and Peoria. Today, Abbott Hall is the town museum; and

WHEREAS, De Soto became a city of the third class in 1902 in Johnson County. That same year, the first telephone line was installed in De Soto, and was used for medical and doctor services until 1904, when the De Soto Mutual Telephone Company was formed; and

WHEREAS, River ferries were used until the first bridge was built over the Kansas (Kaw) River in 1903; and

WHEREAS, The voters approved the building of a high school in 1918, graduating the first class in 1920; and

WHEREAS, With construction of the Sunflower Ordnance Works, an army ammunition plant, De Soto boomed in the early 1940's with people coming from all over the United States to work at the plant. Over the years, the community has steadily grown and new residential, commercial and industrial development have brought new residents and employers to the once agricultural-based community; and

WHEREAS, De Soto residents take part in annual events such as the De Soto Day's Festival and the Fourth of July celebration; and

WHEREAS, In May, 2006, in response to a taxpayer bond issue, the city of De Soto opened the De Soto Aquatic Center, a state of the art aquatic center, which joins acres of city and county parks, walking trails, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts to generate an abundance of year-round activities for De Soto residents; and

WHEREAS, De Soto's housing market is among the most affordable in Johnson County with an average home value 20% below the county average; Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we do hereby proclaim the year 2007 as the city of De Soto's sesquicentennial year; we celebrate the rich legacy, progress and achievements of the city; and 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 6 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Lynn.

Senate Resolution No. 1882 was sponsored by Senator Julia Lynn.

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.*