

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1887

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

WHEREAS, Chetopa, Kansas, was founded on April 18, 1857 and will celebrate its 150th anniversary in conjunction with the annual Spring Fling on May 12, 2007; and

WHEREAS, In early 1857 a society known as the Powhattan Agricultural Association was formed at Powhattan, Ohio, to establish a colony somewhere in southeastern Kansas. A committee of three, led by association president Dr. George Lisle, left Ohio April 1, 1857, with instructions to visit the Neosho Valley and reached the location where Chetopa now stands on the 17th day of April. The beauty and fertility of the country was apparent, and the party was satisfied that no better place could be found and concluded to select this for the location of the colony; and

WHEREAS, Chetopa is located in southeast Labette County, an area primarily settled by Union veterans following the Osage Treaty of 1865, and was named after the Osage Chief Chetopah. The "h" was dropped in 1879. Being situated on the Neosho River, Chetopa is also known throughout the state of Kansas as the Catfish Capital; and

WHEREAS, Chetopa survived many acts of brutality and devastation during the Civil War Era, including the burning of forty houses in and around the city. After the war ended and peace was restored, those who had left their homes, followed by many others, returned to Chetopa to continue the work of improvement and settlement; and

WHEREAS, The first celebration in Chetopa was held on July 4, 1867, and the patriotism of its citizens brings them together on that date almost every year. Chetopa also celebrates annually its rich heritage in the cultivation of pecans by hosting the Pecan Festival on the third Saturday each November; and

WHEREAS, Chetopa's first brick buildings were erected in 1870, the same year that John Torrance located his foundry in Chetopa. Bringing an element of trade, this addition was valuable to the development of business in the town. The *Advance* newspaper moved to Chetopa in January 1869, and the First National Bank opened in December 1871; and

WHEREAS, Chetopa, throughout its 150 years, has endured droughts and enjoyed prosperity, established well-attended, active, and serving churches, produced accomplished graduates in its outstanding schools, developed successful industries, stores, and banks, and maintained service organizations that work together to strengthen the community: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we do hereby proclaim and celebrate April 18, 2007, as the sesquicentennial anniversary of Chetopa, Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Dwayne Umbarger for presentation to Chetopa, Kansas.

Senate Resolution No. 1887 was sponsored by Senator Dwayne Umbarger.

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.*