

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 50

Introduced by Bloomfield, 17; Bolz, 29; Johnson, 23; Kintner, 2; Scheer, 19; Schumacher, 22; Wallman, 30.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Floyd, a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition who was buried on a bluff in 1804, was probably one of the first white men in what is now South Sioux City, Nebraska. The story of South Sioux City is entwined in the tale of several towns and activities on both sides of the Missouri River; and

WHEREAS, Gustave Pecaut, a French-speaking native of Switzerland, emigrated to America and engaged in fur trading, building a cabin near the river in 1854. During the winter of 1855-56, a group of men cut wood and hauled it across the frozen river to the people living there; and

WHEREAS, a town site was registered in August 1856 and named "Harney City" for the general in charge of the troops stationed in the vicinity as protection against Indian raids. Existing only on paper, this town failed to develop; and

WHEREAS, another town site was surveyed near the Burlington Railroad in 1856. Named "Pacific City," it was granted incorporation papers in 1858. The ravages of flood waters quickly discouraged the inhabitants, and a later flood, when the river changed its course, left what became known as "Silver Lake" at this site; and

WHEREAS, the Harney City location, taken over by a new town site company, changed its name to "Newport." Before filing the official papers in 1857, however, it was given the name "Covington." Later that year

another plat was incorporated as "South Covington." These towns merged in 1870; and

WHEREAS, in 1856, between Covington and the bend on the Missouri River, a Mr. Stanton laid out a town which he named for himself. At its peak, "Stanton" boasted 30 buildings, 13 of which were saloons; and

WHEREAS, still another town was platted and incorporated in 1887. This settlement called itself "South Sioux City"; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the need to "organize or dissolve," South Sioux City leaders brought forth the matter of the consolidation of these rival villages into one town. In a special election in 1893, the merger was approved. Both Stanton and Covington became part of the present city, parts of which had been washed away by the ever-changing Missouri River. In an attempt to bring law and order to the community, Dakota County authorities ordered all gambling houses closed, and a new image of law and order was initiated. In 1895 the "Combination Bridge" was built across the Missouri River. It was large enough to accommodate trains, street cars, pedestrians, and horse-drawn vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the population has risen steadily since the early 1900s. In its Jubilee Year the count was 4,000. In its centennial year, the population topped 9,000; and

WHEREAS, the Sergeant Floyd Memorial Bridge across the Missouri River was built in 1976. The four-lane Siouxland Veterans Memorial Bridge was completed in 1981; and

WHEREAS, South Sioux City offers almost every type of business, civic organization, and activity. Camping and recreational facilities on

the 22-acre Scenic Park, located at the east end of the bridge, have been renovated and repaired. The town's centennial, celebrated in 1987, provided an opportunity to take stock of the events that shaped the town's history and to chart a course for the future of South Sioux City, the 15th largest city in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, South Sioux City, Nebraska, population of 13,353, celebrated its well-deserved 125th anniversary on August 3 and 4, 2012, during the Cardinal Days Festival.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates South Sioux City, Nebraska, on its 125th anniversary.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the city council of South Sioux City, Nebraska.