

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 279

Introduced by Quick, 35; Baker, 30; Briese, 41; Erdman, 47; Friesen, 34; Groene, 42; Halloran, 33; Hughes, 44; McDonnell, 5; Pansing Brooks, 28; Schumacher, 22; Williams, 36; Brewer, 43.

WHEREAS, on Thursday, January 12, 1888, a sudden fierce blizzard swept across Nebraska without warning; and

WHEREAS, temperatures that day started out unseasonably warm, and then fell to between 30 and 40 degrees below zero as hurricane-like winds caused blinding whiteouts during a storm that lasted for twelve to eighteen hours; and

WHEREAS, the storm is sometimes called the School Children's Blizzard, as it caught many children away from home; and

WHEREAS, many acts of bravery were performed by parents, teachers, and children themselves; and

WHEREAS, the story of the nineteen-year-old teacher, Minnie Freeman, has come to symbolize the courage shown that day; and

WHEREAS, Minnie linked her thirteen students together with twine and led them through the storm to safety after wind tore the roof off the sod schoolhouse where she was teaching about six miles south of Ord; and

WHEREAS, Minnie Freeman's fortitude was recorded in the popular Victorian parlor song, "Thirteen were Saved, or Nebraska's Fearless Maid," and is symbolized in a mosaic mural near the ceiling of the Great Hall in the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, January 12, 2018, is the 130-year anniversary of the Great Blizzard of 1888.

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

1. That the Legislature commemorates the 130-year anniversary of the Great Blizzard of 1888 and the heroism of Minnie Freeman and other Nebraskans on that fateful day.