

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND CONGRATULATING BONNEVILLE COUNTY  
FOR ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY AS A COUNTY.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Bonneville County was established February 7, 1911, by the Idaho Legislature and was named after Captain Benjamin Bonneville, a French born officer in the United States Army who was a fur trapper and explorer in the American West and is noted for his expeditions to the Oregon Country and the Great Basin in the 1830's; and

WHEREAS, the first bridge spanning the Snake River was constructed by Matt Taylor in 1865, around which developed a settlement known as Eagle Rock, which became known as Idaho Falls in 1891; and

WHEREAS, Bonneville County was formed from Bingham County, which was part of Oneida County until 1893 and Bonneville County is part of the Idaho Falls statistical area and is 1,901 square miles with 1,869 square miles of land and 32 square miles of water with its population in 2000 of 82,522 and its estimated 2008 population of 99,135; and

WHEREAS, the following cities are included in Bonneville County: Ammon, Idaho Falls, Iona, Irwin, Ririe, Swan Valley and Ucon as well as the unincorporated communities of Lincoln and Osgood; and

WHEREAS, the Snake River flows northwest through Bonneville County beginning at the Wyoming border as the Palisades Reservoir and the river exits the county midway on its northern border, turns and re-enters approximately twenty miles west to flow southwest through Idaho Falls; and

WHEREAS, Caribou National Forest, Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge and Targhee National Forest all lay partially within the boundaries of Bonneville County, and Yellowstone National Park is adjacent; and

WHEREAS, Bonneville County's county seat is Idaho Falls and the waterfalls in the city limits are a focal point that were created by a diversion dam that provides hydroelectric power; and

WHEREAS, the original dam was built in 1909 and in 1928 a bond election was called for \$100,000 to finish the power plant; today's dam was constructed as part of a \$55.3 million hydroelectric power project in 1982, and the citizenry of Idaho Falls paid \$48.0 million in taxes to fabricate the hydroelectric power plant and the U.S. Department of Energy in turn funded \$7.3 million allowing for completion of the power plant for a total of three power plants that produce hydroelectric power for Idaho Falls and combined they produce fifty percent of the electricity needed; and

WHEREAS, Bonneville County is less than 100 miles from Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and is one of eastern Idaho's regional centers for shopping, medical care, cultural awareness, education, development of new energy and education infrastructure with the AREVA Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility, and the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES); and

1           WHEREAS, in 1931 under the direction of E. F. McDermott, its publisher,  
2 the Post newspaper purchased the ailing Times-Register and became the Post  
3 Register and has been operating since; and

4           WHEREAS, in 1969 Eastern Idaho Vocational Technical School was founded  
5 in Idaho Falls and classes were held in leased buildings for an initial 330  
6 students, and in 1975 Eastern Idaho Vocational Technical School, now called  
7 Eastern Idaho Technical College, constructed its first building on a 60 acre  
8 site donated on the Ammon-Idaho Falls border; and

9           WHEREAS, in 1976 a building was constructed for the Bicentennial and be-  
10 came University Place, with other buildings being added, giving the capabil-  
11 ity to have upper division and graduate courses offered in Bonneville County  
12 by Idaho State University and the University of Idaho; and

13           WHEREAS, Bonneville County is home headquarters of offices and key lab  
14 facilities of the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the state's only feder-  
15 ally funded research and development center and the nation's leading center  
16 for nuclear energy research, development, demonstration and deployment; and

17           WHEREAS, the ingenuity of INL scientists and engineers, along with that  
18 of other Idaho-based researchers, has consistently kept the state at or near  
19 the top spot in the nation in patents issued per capita; and

20           WHEREAS, Bonneville County has been the birthplace of many leaders in-  
21 cluding members of Congress, the United States House of Representatives and  
22 Governors; and

23           WHEREAS, the 1987 Legislature, with SCR 101 by Senator Ann Rydalch and  
24 Representative John Sessions, recognized and declared the Vietnam Veterans'  
25 Memorial in Freeman Park in the city of Idaho Falls, to be the official Viet-  
26 nam Veterans' Memorial of the state of Idaho; and

27           WHEREAS, Bonneville County Commissioners Roger Christensen, Lee Staker  
28 and Dave Radford determined early on, it was important to look ahead to year  
29 2011, the County Centennial, and they established the Bonneville County Cen-  
30 tennial Heritage Association; and

31           WHEREAS, this association, under the direction of Mary Jane Fritzen and  
32 Gary Goodson, has utilized numerous volunteers, and Bonneville County au-  
33 thors, as well as the Museum of Idaho historically developed by the Carr fam-  
34 ily, located in Idaho Falls and the museum exhibit, to plan and celebrate  
35 the history of Bonneville County throughout the year of 2011. This includes  
36 an award winning publication by Connie Otteson, of a History of Bonneville  
37 County from the point of view of a real pioneer boy, as a supplementary text  
38 for fourth grade study of Idaho history as well as other authors' publica-  
39 tions about Bonneville County; and

40           WHEREAS, histories of individual communities included in Bonneville  
41 County will be presented throughout 2011, ending with a Centennial Gala  
42 Celebration on November 10-12, 2011, honoring our military and showcasing  
43 the Bonneville County Centennial High School Choir coordinated by Hillcrest  
44 Choir Director Camille Blackburn, which will consist of high school students  
45 from Bonneville, Hillcrest, Idaho Falls and Skyline and their choir direc-  
46 tors.

47           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
48 sion of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives  
49 and the Senate concurring therein, that we hereby congratulate Bonneville  
50 County and its residents for its Centennial Anniversary on February 7, 2011.