

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6012

A RESOLUTION honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lindsborg, Kansas.

WHEREAS, February 20, 2019, marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lindsborg, a town in McPherson County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, In 1868, Kansas was known as "the great American desert," as it was reported that "it never rained there" and that, upon organizing the Swedish Agricultural Company in April of 1868, Chairman John Ferm said, "If God is going to let us settle in Kansas, He will give us rain"; and

WHEREAS, After claims were filed in the general vicinity of Lindsborg in May of 1866, the Swedish Agricultural Company entered into a contract to purchase 16,000 acres of land from the Kansas Pacific Railway; and

WHEREAS, A call for settlers was sent to Sweden in December of 1868, and a promising young pastor named Dr. Olof Olsson was chosen to lead a large group of immigrants the following spring; and

WHEREAS, The site was settled on January 20, 1869, by the Swedish Agricultural Company. Thereafter, the development of the land and farming commenced; and

WHEREAS, On February 20, 1869, the Swedish Agricultural Company, with several members of the company having "Lind" in their surname, determined that "Lindsborg" would be the name of the settlement. Having fulfilled its role, the Swedish Agricultural Company was dissolved shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, Pastor Olof Olsson and a group of 100 Swedish immigrants from the Värmland province of Sweden arrived on June 27, 1869; and

WHEREAS, In establishing Lindsborg, the Swedish immigrants had to endure harsh weather conditions in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf visited Lindsborg during his royal tour of the United States in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Today, Lindsborg is a cultural destination, popularly known as "Little Sweden," due to its significant population of descendants of Swedish immigrants and the Swedish heritage and traditions they maintain; and

WHEREAS, Svensk Hyllningsfest is a biennial festival that celebrates Lindsborg's Swedish heritage with art and crafts, special foods, ethnic music, traditional folk dance, costumes, and other Swedish entertainment; and

WHEREAS, The Sesquicentennial Festival Committee has declared the theme "Sweden on the Plains – Living the Legacy" for its 2019 anniversary: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we honor Lindsborg, Kansas, on its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we commend the men and women who have made Lindsborg the culturally rich town that it is today, and we honor the immigrants from the Värmland province of Sweden for settling in Lindsborg, Kansas.

House Resolution No. 6012 was sponsored by Representatives Steven Johnson and Susan Concannon.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*