

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6028

A RESOLUTION recognizing the Etzanoa Conservancy for its work to uncover the history of the great Native American settlement of Etzanoa.

WHEREAS, In 1601, during an expedition from New Mexico into Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, Don Juan de Oñate, the Spanish conquistador who founded New Mexico, discovered what he called “the Great Settlement,” which was known to the village’s inhabitants as “Etzanoa”; and

WHEREAS, Etzanoa is also the likely location of a battle in 1601 between de Oñate’s forces and a band of Wichita tribe ancestors, the Escanjaques as they were called by the Spanish; and

WHEREAS, It is accepted that the inhabitants of Etzanoa are the ancestors of the modern-day Wichita people of the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes; and

WHEREAS, The exact location of Etzanoa was unknown for many years, and several places, including Arkansas City, Kansas, were considered possible locations for the settlement; and

WHEREAS, With the revelation of new research and archaeological evidence, Dr. Donald Blakeslee, a Wichita State University Professor of Anthropology, became convinced that the east side of Arkansas City along the Walnut River was the location of Etzanoa; and

WHEREAS, In June, 2015, Dr. Blakeslee organized a research team of archaeologists, students and volunteers to conduct field work on the Etzanoa site and, as a result of this expedition, Dr. Blakeslee was able to confirm the site as the location of the settlement of Etzanoa; and

WHEREAS, The archaeological site of Etzanoa has the potential, based on the description of the settlement by de Oñate and artifacts found at the site, to be one of the largest Native American settlements to have existed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, This research would not have been possible without the contributions of Dr. Blakeslee, the V. J. Wilkins Foundation, the City of Arkansas City and the Arkansas City Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Blakeslee believes that, based on the evidence, the Etzanoa archaeological site is a great candidate for being designated as both a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and a National Historic Landmark: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize the Etzanoa Conservancy for its work to uncover the history of the great settlement of Etzanoa and the many individuals who have contributed time and finances to better understand this American treasure.

House Resolution No. 6028 was sponsored by Representative Anita Judd-Jenkins.

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.*