

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

INTRODUCED BY G. HERTZ, J. FIELDER, R. PINOCCI, D. SALOMON, J. TAYLOR

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES PROMOTING TOURISM IN MONTANA TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE THE SIGNIFICANCE AND SPECIAL STATUS OF THE MIRACLE OF AMERICA MUSEUM, INC., IN POLSON, MONTANA, AS A PREMIER TOURIST ATTRACTION.

WHEREAS, the Miracle of America Museum, Inc., in Polson, Montana, was founded by Gil and Joanne Mangles in 1981 as a nonprofit museum and was called by former governor Judy Martz a premier tourist attraction; and

WHEREAS, the museum exhibits the largest collection of antique artifacts in Montana, including Native American items, cars, toys, guns, clothing, wagons, snowmobiles, items as tiny as a bird-point arrowhead and as large as the 65-foot "Paul Bunyan", the only remaining logging towboat used on Flathead Lake, and many other items; and

WHEREAS, the museum is also home to the Montana Fiddlers Hall of Fame, is officially recognized as the Montana DUI Victim Memorial, has a complete collection of official Montana state highway maps dating from 1934, houses the largest collection in Montana of artifacts paying tribute to military veterans, has more than 3,000 pieces of motorcycling memorabilia dating back to 1912, and is home to several items from Thomas Edison's laboratory; and

WHEREAS, the museum is kid-friendly with many interactive displays that promote intergenerational bonding; and

WHEREAS, the museum includes more than 40 buildings, many of which are historic to the area, including a 1912 schoolhouse and a fully equipped blacksmith shop; and

WHEREAS, the museum has been and continues to be an ideal place for schoolchildren to visit during class field trips; and

WHEREAS, the museum is open all year and acts as a visitor center when the Polson chamber of commerce is closed; and

WHEREAS, the museum has been called the Smithsonian of the West and has received accolades from around the world.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 STATE OF MONTANA:

3 (1) That all public and private entities promoting tourism in Montana are urged to recognize and promote
4 the significance and special status of the Miracle of America Museum, Inc., in Polson, Montana, as a premier
5 tourist attraction and to encourage Montanans and tourists from other states and countries to visit the museum
6 and experience its many wonderful offerings.

7 (2) THAT THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IS URGED TO INCLUDE THE LOCATION OF THE
8 MIRACLE OF AMERICA MUSEUM, INC., WHEN THE DEPARTMENT UPDATES AND PUBLISHES THE STATE MAPS.

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