

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 51

Introduced by Bloomfield, 17; Bolz, 29; Johnson, 23; Kintner, 2; Scheer, 19; Schumacher, 22; Wallman, 30.

WHEREAS, nestled in the rolling hills of northeast Nebraska, the village of Emerson has the distinction of being located in three counties. The largest western section (Emerson Township 46%) is in Dixon County, the northeast part (Emerson Precinct 28%) is in Dakota County, and the southeast part (Perry Township 26%) is in Thurston County; and

WHEREAS, the village of Emerson was established as a junction on the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railway in 1881; and

WHEREAS, the village of Emerson was first known as "Kenesaw Junction," but there was another town in Nebraska by that name, so a new name of "Emerson," for the author Ralph Waldo Emerson, was chosen; and

WHEREAS, Emerson had what is referred to as the "Winnebago Invasion." In 1882 the Indian reservation extended to the edge of Emerson's initial plat. Many settlers, however, built on the land beyond the town where they had no rights. On a morning in May, a delegation of Indian warriors in full attire delivered a decree of the Winnebago Council meeting, which stated that "these people are to be off the reservation within an hour." There was a wild scramble, but by nightfall the collection of temporary shanties had been moved across the line into the village proper. Later the reservation line was established at the Thurston County line; and

WHEREAS, Emerson was incorporated in July 1888 when the population was between 200 and 300. By 1893 the village had grown to 600 residents; and

WHEREAS, Emerson, born as a railroad junction, had 67 trains daily until well into the 1930s and was the home for many railroad workers. There were three section houses, an extensive waterworks, car scales, and a good stockyard. Every four hours a passenger train left for Omaha, Nebraska, Sioux City, Iowa, or Norfolk, Nebraska. Four hotels flourished, and at one time the town had a cigar factory and a roller mill. As rail traffic declined, truck lines took over. The depot and roundhouse still stand but now house other business establishments, and the tracks have been removed; and

WHEREAS, Emerson is the headquarters of the National Farm Crisis Organization; and

WHEREAS, the village of Emerson, population of 840, is preparing to celebrate its 125th anniversary with full fanfare from Thursday, May 30, through Sunday, June 2, 2013.

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

1. That the Legislature congratulates the village of Emerson, Nebraska, on its 125th anniversary.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Emerson Village Board.