

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6039

A RESOLUTION recognizing the first territorial capitol of Kansas.

WHEREAS, In 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act created the Kansas territory and President Franklin Pierce appointed Andrew H. Reeder as governor of the Kansas territory, Governor Reeder selected the little settlement of Pawnee, located on land near the Fort Riley military reserve and on the banks of the Kansas River as the location of the first territorial capitol of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The first territorial election was held on March 30, 1855, wherein companies of proslavery Missourians invaded Kansas and overwhelmingly elected a Missourian in almost every district, the stage was set for the events that took place in July 1855 at the first territorial capitol; and

WHEREAS, The legislature convened at the first territorial capitol on July 2, 1855, during which the only members of the body who were freestaters were ejected from the body, Judge John Wakefield as he left the chamber made the prophetic statement, "Gentlemen, this is a memorable day and it may become even more so, for your acts will be the means of lighting the watch fires of war in our land!"; and

WHEREAS, From that day forward the stage was set for the battle over slavery in Kansas marking the first territorial capitols' place in the history of Kansas and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The first territorial capitol building was rebuilt from its ruins in 1928 by the Union Pacific Railroad; and

WHEREAS, The first territorial capitol has a strong volunteer organization called the partners of the first territorial capitol with Norm Childs as president; and

WHEREAS, The partners of the first territorial capitol act as a liaison between the Kansas state historical society to keep the first territorial capitol open to the public and help to support programs to preserve the history of the first territorial capitol: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize the historic impact of the first territorial capitol of Kansas and its importance as a historical site to the citizens of Kansas and the United States of America.

House Resolution No. 6039 was sponsored by Representatives Barbara Craft, Kathe Decker, Sharon Schwartz, Sydney Carlin, Tom Hawk.

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.*