

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1808

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Marci Penner.

WHEREAS, Marci Penner of Inman will be honored as the Distinguished Kansan of the Year by the Kansas Native Sons and Daughters at their annual banquet on January 27. The award is given in recognition of exceptional Kansans committed to preserving Kansas history; and

WHEREAS, Marci Penner currently serves as the Executive Director of the Kansas Sampler Foundation, an organization founded by her and her father, Mel Penner, and dedicated to preserving and sustaining rural culture in Kansas. She also is co-chair of the Governor's Rural Life Task Force committee and a board member of the Travel Industry Association of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Marci's interest in rural Kansas started when she was a girl and accompanied her parents on motor trips exploring her home state. That interest culminated in the publication of her book, "The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers". To compile this guidebook she visited every one of the 627 incorporated towns in Kansas, many unincorporated crossroads and traveled over 40,000 miles. Earlier she had coauthored with her father Kansas weekend and event guide books. She has been a frequent author for Kansas Heritage, a publication of the Kansas State Historical Society, and was chosen by the Kansas Department of Transportation to compile a pamphlet entitled "Kansas Scenic Byways"; and

WHEREAS, The foundation sponsors and oversees the Kansas Sampler Festival which is held every year to showcase Kansas products and activities. The foundation also directs the Kansas Explorers Club which examines eight elements of Kansas—architecture, art, commerce, cuisine, customs, geography, history and people. The organization sponsors the We Kan! conference, facilitates retreats and planning sessions and acts as a liaison for rural communities with state agencies and the media; and

WHEREAS, Other recognitions Ms. Penner has received in recognition of her work involving rural Kansas include the Rural Leadership Award presented by the National Rural Economic Developers Association and the Tourism Award of Merit for Individual Achievement by the Kansas Department of Commerce's State Travel and Tourism Division; and

WHEREAS, Marci is a graduate of the University of Kansas where she lettered in two sports, and she has a masters degree in counseling and guidance from the University of Wisconsin: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Marci Penner for her dedication to preserving interest in rural Kansas and in being honored as the 2006 Distinguished Kansan of the Year by the Kansas Native Sons and Daughters; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Marci Penner, 978 Arapaho Road, Inman, KS 67546.

Senate Resolution No. 1808 was sponsored by Senator Carolyn McGinn.

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

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*