

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1817

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Willing Workers Society.

WHEREAS, The Willing Workers Society of Ellsworth County is celebrating its 100th anniversary. The society was organized by ladies from the Ash Creek and Thomas Townships in Ellsworth County in February 1906 and met on the third Thursday of every month. While the averred purpose of the organization was charity, a large part of the success of the organization was the social part of the meetings and the friendships that were generated from these meetings. Children were a part of the meetings, and even a few men could be found in attendance; and

WHEREAS, As established by its early by-laws, membership was limited to 15 and dues were 10 cents a month. Membership was later expanded to 25 and dues to three dollars a year. A member was declared an honorary member after being in the organization 25 years and absolved of the duty of entertaining, but this provision had to be discontinued as eventually there were not enough regular members to act as hostesses for their meetings; and

WHEREAS, For many years the two hostesses for the month would prepare baked goods, jellies or crafts and handiwork which would be auctioned off at the end of the monthly meeting. This activity provided a basis for their charitable deeds. Originally, they sponsored a shower and dance for members' children upon their marriage. As times changed, they sponsored a card party and shower, and the current practice is to give a monetary gift to the newlyweds. Another appreciated practice of the society was to provide food for funeral dinners as well as providing care and support for the bereaved; and

WHEREAS, In 1981 the society published its first cookbook, "Our Favorite Recipes" which soon was sold out as well as two reprints. In February it printed another cookbook, "Favorite Recipes". The society maintained its own building, the Community House, until 1984 when it was sold at auction with many society members purchasing mementos from the building; and

WHEREAS, There have been 90 members in this society, an organization which remains proud and alive on its 100th anniversary. It continues its charitable activity by sponsoring two \$300 college scholarships each year. Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend the Willing Workers Society upon its 100th anniversary and hope that the society can continue and prosper in the future; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Mrs. Ona Wright, 1096 Avenue M, Ellsworth, KS 67439 and a copy to Senator Emler.

Senate Resolution No. 1817 was sponsored by Senator Jay Emler.

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.*