

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1851

A RESOLUTION recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Black Jack.

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas was born in the struggle between pro and anti-slavery factions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Because of this struggle, the armed conflict that was the American Civil War began in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, The first incident in that armed conflict took place along Black Jack Creek in southeastern Douglas County, Kansas Territory, on June 2, 1856, between a free-state militia lead by John Brown and a pro-slavery militia led by Henry Clay Pate; and

WHEREAS, John Brown called this action, that has come to be called the Battle of Black Jack, “the first regular battle between free-state and pro-slavery forces in Kansas”; and

WHEREAS, The first use of the term “civil war” by national newspapers to describe the armed conflict between pro and anti-slavery forces was in the coverage of the Battle of Black Jack; and

WHEREAS, Being the first recorded battle in the American Civil War, the Battle of Black Jack is important to the history of Douglas County, the State of Kansas, and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The 150th anniversary of the battle is June 2, 2006: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That the Senate recognizes both the unique position held by the Battle of Black Jack in the history of Douglas County, the State of Kansas, and the United States of America, and the importance of preserving the site of the battle for future generations; and

*Be it further resolved:* That all citizens of the State of Kansas are urged to observe the sesquicentennial commemoration of the battle on June 2, 2006.

Senate Resolution No. 1851 was sponsored by Senator Roger Pine.

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

---

*President of the Senate.*

---

*Secretary of the Senate.*