

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1865

A RESOLUTION proclaiming April 17 and 18 as “Kansas Exoduster Colonies’ Days”.

WHEREAS, Following the Civil War, many former slaves **and freedmen** migrated to Kansas because it had a progressive and more tolerant reputation than most other states at that time. These African American migrants were called “Exodusters,” in reference to the biblical story of the Hebrew exodus from Egypt. During the 1870’s and 1880’s, nearly 40,000 Exodusters came to Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Exoduster families made significant contributions to the state of Kansas and the surrounding area and were located in the colonies of Bloomington, Burlington, Chautauqua, David City, Dunlap, Groves Center, Hoggstown, Little Caney, Mississippi, Morton, Mud Town, Nicodemus, Quindaro, Rattlebone Hollow, Redmonsville, Rice, Richie’s Addition, Scuffletown, Sedan, Singleton, Summit, Tennessee Town, The Bottoms, Votaw, Wabunsee and Wayside; and

WHEREAS, The descendants of the Exoduster families have made their presence and influence felt in population growth, education, city development, science, religion, the professions and the arts; and

WHEREAS, April 17 and 18, 2009, there will be a “Reconnection II” event for Exoduster descendants from across the fifty states to return and reconnect: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we proclaim April 17 and 18, 2009, as “Kansas Exoduster Colonies’ Days”; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Nat Fitz, President, Votaw Colony Museum, Inc., 818 Gertrude Avenue, Richmond, California 94801.

Senate Resolution No. 1865 was sponsored by Senators D. Schmidt, Faust-Goudeau, Haley and Ostmeyer.

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.