

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. _____

By Senator Taddiken

A RESOLUTION recognizing and commending Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson and the Ferguson family for preserving historical masonry tools used by Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson's grandfather, Nels Ferguson, in the construction of the Kansas state capitol in the 1870s.

WHEREAS, Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson's grandfather, Nels Ferguson, was born in Sweden in 1838 and immigrated to the United States in 1869; and

WHEREAS, Nels Ferguson utilized a collection of four masonry tools in the construction of the Kansas state capitol's west wing in 1879. These four specific masonry tools included a plumb bob, a wooden level, a hand float and a pry bar; and

WHEREAS, Since limestone was the preferred building material in Kansas during the late 19th century, the stone was quarried in Junction City and Cottonwood Falls, Kansas and transported 80 miles to Topeka, Kansas by wagon, riverboat or rail. The limestone was then carved and positioned using horse-drawn cranes; and

WHEREAS, In his work on the Kansas capitol building, Nels Ferguson used his masonry tools to place massive stones and apply mortar. The wooden level and plumb bob were used to ensure proper alignment and the crowbar was used to leverage stones into position. The hand float was used to help with the finishing work; and

WHEREAS, Nels Ferguson died in 1939 in Kansas at 100 years old and is succeeded by five children and two grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson, the grandson of Nels Ferguson, preserved Nels' four masonry tools used to construct the Kansas statehouse for more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson held an auction in his hometown of Clyde, Kansas in the summer of 2010. Auctioneer Greg Askren sold Nels Ferguson's four masonry tools to Kansas Senator Mark Taddiken and House Representative Elaine Bowers, who both represent Cloud County, Kansas in the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, The legislators later donated the masonry tool collection to the Kansas Historical Society, where they now reside in the collections of the Society's Kansas Museum of History: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson and the entire Ferguson family be recognized and commended for preserving Nels Ferguson's masonry tool collection used in the construction of the Kansas statehouse, a neoclassical structure that now towers 304 feet above the Kansas prairie; and

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize the historic impact of the Ferguson family's preservation of a significant part of Kansas history; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send one enrolled copy of this resolution to Dr. John "Doc" Ferguson, one enrolled copy to Beth Tyler, granddaughter of Nels Ferguson and one enrolled copy to the Kansas Historical Society.