

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1839

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the Independence Public Library for winning the Library Journal's Best Small Library in America Award.

WHEREAS, The Independence Public Library has won the prestigious Library Journal's 2012 Best Small Library in America Award. The award is sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and was created in 2005 to encourage and showcase the exemplary work of libraries that serve populations under 25,000. The Independence Public Library will receive a cash prize of \$15,000 and will be honored at the 2012 Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, The Independence Public Library has been recognized for having undergone a dramatic yet positive transformation, despite threats of closure due to severe budget shortfalls. The library's small staff of eight pulled off a miraculous resurrection of the library by creating connections with the Independence business community, which has resulted in increased library advocacy and the ability to attract other grants and donations to help fund library programs. Due to community support and the staff's hard work, the library has thrived and will soon be open six days a week to serve a district of 13,420 people.

WHEREAS, Library staff has implemented the use of various creative marketing tools such as an email newsletter, an iPhone application and social networking to bring awareness to the Independence community of the library's resources, services and programs; and

WHEREAS, The Independence Public Library has previously received other prestigious awards including: The EBSCO Excellence in Small and/or Rural Public Library Service Award, the American Dream States @ Your Library grant, the We the People Bookshelf, a Public Library Association advocacy grant and SEKLS (Southeast Kansas Library System) grants for Collection Development and Materials Delivery; and

WHEREAS, The technology services provided at the Independence Public Library include free access to the internet through 50 public access computers, purchased as part of a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation approximately five years ago. This internet access is crucial to the increased use and support of the library. The computer lab is available to businesses for training, and every day there are students taking online classes at the Independence Public Library: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate the Independence Public Library for winning the Library Journal's eighth annual Best Small Library in America Award; and

Be it further resolved: That we commend the Independence Public Library's efforts in resurrecting the library as a valuable public resource for the Independence community. The Independence Public Library has engaged the local community, built established relationships with local businesses and community leaders and kept current with recent technological advances, all of which are accomplishments to be recognized and applauded; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator King.

Senate Resolution No. 1839 was sponsored by Senator Jeff King.

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.