

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1844

A RESOLUTION designating the Santa Fe Trail Center near Larned as the Official Santa Fe Trail History Museum in Kansas.

WHEREAS, The Santa Fe Trail Center near Larned is a regional museum dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the geographic area once known as the Santa Fe Trail. The trail was a great trade route which linked the United States with Mexico, and later with its own American southwest. The era of the Santa Fe Trail began in 1821, when Mexican independence from Spain opened up new trade opportunities for both American and Mexican merchants. Pulled by oxen and mules, commercial freight wagon trains crossed the plains until the railroad arrived near Santa Fe in 1880. This ended the Santa Fe Trail's freighting days and a new era began as settlers established homes, farms and ranches along the ruts of the old trail; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Fe Trail Center opened its doors in 1974 and was accredited by the American Association of Museums three years later, becoming one of the youngest museums in the nation to be granted such accreditation. A nonprofit organization, the center is locally owned and privately funded; and

WHEREAS, In 1991, the Santa Fe Trail Center was designated a certified site on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. It was the second site on the trail and the first site in Kansas to receive this important designation by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, The museum's exhibits show the trail as a transportation route which blended the Indian, Spanish and American cultures. Displays include prehistoric Indian artifacts, a Wichita Indian grass lodge, a full sized mounted buffalo, a commercial freight wagon and an exhibit showing the Spanish influences on the trail; and

WHEREAS, The period of settlement along the ruts of the old trail, brought about by the coming of the railroad, is depicted in the museum by a series of rooms showing pioneer life in the early 1900's. An impressive collection of historic firearms showing the progression of weapons from flintlock to cartridge is also on display; and

WHEREAS, Outdoor exhibits on the Trail Center's 25-acre complex include a sod house, dugout home, limestone cooling house, one-room schoolhouse and a Santa Fe Railroad depot. On special occasions, living history programs provide visitors with an insight into early pioneer life; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate to designate this facility as the Official Santa Fe Trail History Museum in Kansas: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That the Santa Fe Trail Center near Larned be designated the Official Santa Fe Trail History Museum in Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Ruth Olson Peters, Director, Santa Fe Trail Center, R.R. No. 3, Larned, Kansas 67550.

Senate Resolution No. 1844 was sponsored by Senators Larry D. Salmans and John L. Vratil.

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.*