

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1846

A RESOLUTION recognizing the centennial anniversary of the commemoration of Constitution Hall-Topeka, presented July 4, 1903, by the Topeka Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and dedicated by Miss Zu Adams, who was the daughter of Franklin G. Adams, the first executive secretary of Kansas State Historical Society, and its long-time key employee.

WHEREAS, Constitution Hall-Topeka, the vernacular style commercial building presently addressed 427-429 S. Kansas Avenue in Topeka, Kansas, served as the capitol of the free state territorial government from 1855 until 1861, and the Kansas state government from 1863 to 1869; and

WHEREAS, The free state legislature assembled on July 4, 1856, at this building to consider a constitution that would provide that “there shall be no slavery in this state”; and

WHEREAS, The 1998 Kansas Legislature recognized this building as historically significant in the nation and state by granting \$100,000 in funds for its immediate acquisition, and Friends of the Free State Capitol, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, acquired the building, prevented its demolition and progressed in steps toward its preservation and restoration; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service Network to Freedom registered the building in May, 2001, for its use as an underground railroad station on the Lane trail to freedom; and

WHEREAS, A stated objective of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington D.C., through which its Topeka Chapter was organized in Kansas in January 1896, is, “To cherish, maintain, and extend institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country, and to aid in securing for mankind all the blessings of liberty”; and

WHEREAS, One hundred years ago a bronze commemorative tablet was given by the Topeka Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution “. . . to carry out the design and spirit of the national society by aiding in the preservation of that which is most worthy and important in our own state”. Zu Adams placed this tablet in the sidewalk in front of 429 S. Kansas Avenue to mark the historic building’s location, on which tablet was inscribed:

CONSTITUTION HALL
WHERE THE TOPEKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
MET IN 1855
AND THE
TOPEKA LEGISLATURE WAS DISPERSED
BY COL. E.V. SUMNER
JULY 4, 1856
USED AS STATE CAPITOL, 1864-1869
PLACED HERE BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
JULY 4, 1903

Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we recognize and join in celebrating July 4, 2003, centennial of the commemoration of Constitution Hall; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to: Mary Hoyt, Topeka Chapter, DAR, 5815 SW 25th, Topeka, KS 66614; Greg Allen, Friends of the Free State Capitol, P.O. Box 2551, Topeka, KS 66601; Diane Miller, National Director, National Park Service Network To Freedom, 1709 Jackson St., Omaha, NE 68102; Mary R. Allman, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 S.W. 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615; Harry “Butch” Felker, Mayor, City of Topeka, 215 S.E. 7th, Topeka, KS 66603 and to each member of the Kansas congressional delegation.

Senate Resolution No. 1846 was sponsored by Senators Jackson, Bunten and Hensley.

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.