

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1816

A RESOLUTION honoring Pauline Johnson for her 40 years of volunteer service to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Topeka.

WHEREAS, In 1968, Pauline Johnson and the late Addie Spicher started the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Topeka; and

WHEREAS, The first Community Thanksgiving Dinner was held at the East Topeka United Methodist Church where 69 people attended, and Pauline Johnson has volunteered her time and hard work at every Community Thanksgiving Dinner ever since; and

WHEREAS, After that first event, word spread, and soon the Community Thanksgiving Dinner had outgrown its site at the church and was moved to the old Mid-America Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Addie Spicher passed away in 1974, but before she died, she appointed Pauline Johnson to carry on the dinner; and

WHEREAS, Pauline Johnson convinced Grant Cushinberry, who had started a Thanksgiving dinner at the Jordan-Patterson American Legion Post, to merge his dinner with the one at the fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS, When the fairgrounds were demolished in the 1980's, the dinner was moved to the National Guard Armory and then to the basement of the old Municipal Auditorium. After several years at the auditorium, the dinner was moved to its current location in the Agricultural Hall on the grounds of the Kansas Expocentre; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that the Community Thanksgiving Dinner serves as many as 3,000 Topekans in any given year; and

WHEREAS, The Community Thanksgiving Dinner attracts people from all walks of life, which is exactly the way Pauline Johnson likes it, as she was quoted in the newspaper: "This dinner is not for the poor or rich. This dinner is to bring the community together to give thanks for everything we have here."; and

WHEREAS, Pauline Johnson is the last surviving volunteer who prepared the first dinner and 40 years later the Community Thanksgiving Dinner held on Thursday, November 22, 2007, at the Kansas Expocentre's Agricultural Hall was the last dinner Pauline Johnson will serve: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor Pauline Johnson and express our gratitude for her 40 years of dedicated volunteer service to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner and to the people of Topeka, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

Senate Resolution No. 1816 was sponsored by Senator Anthony Hensley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*