

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6039

A RESOLUTION honoring the life and memory of Andrea Burton.

WHEREAS, Andrea Burton, who worked for the Kansas Historical Society as coordinator of the Capitol Visitor Center for 10 years, passed away on October 27, 2015, at the age of 48, peacefully at her home after a battle with melanoma; and

WHEREAS, Andrea was born in Youngstown, Ohio on August 14, 1967. She attended Youngstown State University, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1989. She then attended Kent State and graduated with a master's degree in sociology. While working towards her bachelor's degree, she met the love of her life, Russell Patrick Douglas Burton, and they were married on August 15, 1992, in Youngstown, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, At her job interview, Andrea brought a mock-up of the activity sheet, "I am a fan of the Capitol," which could be turned into a hand-held fan. It continues to be popular with thousands of young visitors to the Capitol who use it to record highlights of their visit; and

WHEREAS, Andrea's first office was a very small room under the stairs. Her Tour Center was a busy desk on the first floor. It was from these humble beginnings that Andrea and her staff progressed to give tours to 30,000 visitors, annually; and

WHEREAS, Andrea loved the Capitol, pre-restoration, mid-restoration and post-restoration, and would not hesitate to tell anyone. Different wings of the building were closed for years at a time, which made for some creative tour modifications. The construction was always very loud and extremely dusty, but she never complained; and

WHEREAS, One of Andrea's proudest achievements was being able to reopen the Capitol dome for public tours on January 23, 2006, for the first time in over 30 years. Andrea loved bringing people to the top of the dome. She loved climbing the 296 steps and then stepping outside to take in the view; and

WHEREAS, Andrea never met a visitor or tour group she did not like. She would willingly take one person on tour as well as 100; and

WHEREAS, The opening of the renovated Capitol in January 2014 increased attendance three-fold. Today, 90,000 people annually enjoy historic and dome tours; and

WHEREAS, The new Capitol Visitor Center provided Andrea with a real office and workroom, an auditorium, a classroom and exhibits that tell the story of Kansas people, places, the building and state government. She used these spaces to make the visitor experience better; and

WHEREAS, Andrea's work ethic inspired everyone, including her dedicated staff and loyal volunteers; and

WHEREAS, On October 27, 2015, Andrea went the 296 steps and beyond. In the Capitol dome, whether viewed from inside or from the ground level, Andrea's spirit will live on forever; Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we honor the life and memory of Andrea Burton and extend our deepest sympathy to her family and friends.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.