

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1866

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending the town of Sylvania, Kansas,
on the 125th anniversary of its founding on May 26, 1887.

WHEREAS, The first homesteaders in the area came from Missouri and settled in an area called Peace Creek until prairie fires forced them to resettle further south in Reno County; and

WHEREAS, Early settlers and visitors to the area were few and far between until the late 1860s and early 1870s. Those early settlers found that the area around Sylvania, nestled in the picturesque valley of the North Ninescah River, had the best water wells; and

WHEREAS, In the 1870s, the land which was to become the town of Sylvania was a sand mound measuring about 300 yards around its base located in western Reno County on the ranch of Henry S. Thompson; and

WHEREAS, In 1882, Henry S. Thompson, fondly remembered as “Uncle” Henry Thompson, came to Kansas, settled in Reno County and would have a profound and lasting influence on the founding and shaping of the town of Sylvania and the State Fair in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Henry S. Thompson convinced the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad to have its Kinsley branch routed through Sylvania, Kansas. Then subsequently in 1884, the land which was to become the town of Sylvania was deeded to the Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company which, in turn in 1886, was deeded back to Henry Thompson and his wife and immediately transferred to the Sylvania Town Company; and

WHEREAS, On April 7, 1886, the Sylvania Town Company platted the town of Sylvania and recorded said plat at the Reno County Courthouse; and the town of Sylvania was incorporated as a city of the third class less than a year later; and

WHEREAS, The town of Sylvania was named for the wife of a vice-president of the Sante Fe Railroad; and

WHEREAS, When the town of Sylvania was not two months old, a newspaper reported that Sylvania already had two elevators, three lumber yards, a bank, a livery stable, a hotel and a newspaper; and

WHEREAS, At its founding, the main street of Sylvania was pure sand one foot deep bounded by elevated wooden sidewalks four feet wide. These sidewalks were replaced with brick sidewalks in the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, In 1895, Henry S. Thompson operated a racetrack on his ranch near Sylvania known as the Sylvania Trotting and Racing Association which was a forerunner of the Kansas State Fair; and

WHEREAS, Sylvania’s favorite son, Henry S. Thompson served two terms as the president of the State Board of Agriculture and three years as a State Representative from the 76th District and was instrumental in seeing that the Kansas State Fair would be located in Hutchinson, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Today Sylvania is known as a friendly town which extends a Kansas hometown welcome to visitors from all around the world; and

WHEREAS, During hunting season, Sylvania is well known as, and prides itself in being, one of the best upland bird areas in the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, On May 26, 2012, the town of Sylvania, Kansas, will hold a day long celebration which is open to all and which includes car shows, parades, trade booths and a dinner that evening: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend the town of Sylvania, Kansas, on the celebration of its 125th anniversary; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send ten enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Ruth Teichman.

Senate Resolution No. 1866 was sponsored by Senators Ruth Teichman and Terry Bruce.

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.