

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 125
2 BY FOEGE
3 (COMPANION TO LSB 5653SS BY DVORSKY)
4 A Resolution commemorating the sesquicentennial
5 anniversary of Cornell College.
6 WHEREAS, Cornell College was founded in Mount
7 Vernon, Iowa, in 1853 by Methodist minister George
8 Bowman, and dedicated to the belief that education was
9 critical to a civilized society; and
10 WHEREAS, the College has a long tradition of
11 emphasizing the value and importance of a rich liberal
12 arts education, of building a close-knit academic
13 environment and nurturing its students, of engaging
14 dedicated professors with the most advanced academic
15 degrees who are focused on teaching, and of offering
16 abundant cocurricular programs and activities; and
17 WHEREAS, from its first academic year, when over
18 one-quarter of its students were women, Cornell
19 College granted women equal academic rights and
20 privileges with men, being the first Iowa college in
21 1858 to confer a baccalaureate degree on a woman and
22 the first college or university in the nation in 1871
23 to confer a full professorship upon a woman with a
24 salary equal to male professors; and
25 WHEREAS, Cornell College, since its inception, has
26 adopted a mission of service, not only to its
27 students, but to the community and the world around
28 it; and
29 WHEREAS, campus organizations active over Cornell's
30 150 years have included nearly two dozen literary

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1 societies meeting during the College's first 75 years,
2 over 30 social groups organized and active over the
3 last 75 years, and more than a dozen national honor
4 and service organizations recognizing outstanding
5 academic performance over the years, including Phi
6 Beta Kappa, first organized in 1923, and Mortar Board;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Cornellians today are active in a myriad
9 of extracurricular activities, including student
10 government, athletics, and off-campus and
11 international programs, and in more than 100 student
12 organizations, with three-fourths of students
13 participating in a communitywide volunteer services
14 program; and

15 WHEREAS, the College's innovative One-Course-At-A-
16 Time calendar was introduced in 1978 and has been
17 significant in drawing prospective students to the
18 College from every state in the nation and from tens
19 of countries around the world; and

20 WHEREAS, national rankings have annually placed
21 Cornell College among the top liberal arts colleges in
22 the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, Cornell's emphasis on a well-rounded
24 liberal arts education and preparation of its students
25 for lifelong achievement and contribution have
26 resulted in nearly two-thirds of its students
27 attending graduate or professional schools following
28 graduation; and

29 WHEREAS, Cornell College has a long history of
30 preserving and rehabilitating its hilltop campus,

1 including its first campus building, now known as Old
2 Sem, its oldest building, the President's House, and
3 its landmark William Fletcher King Chapel, with this
4 preservation effort being recognized in 1980 by the
5 inclusion of the entire College campus on the National
6 Register of Historic Places; NOW THEREFORE,

7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
8 That the House of Representatives recognizes Cornell
9 College for its contributions to the state in general
10 and to its students and the Mount Vernon community in
11 particular, and extends congratulations to Cornell
12 College on 150 years of dedicated service; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an official copy of
14 this Resolution be prepared and presented to Les
15 Garner, President of Cornell College, to share with
16 Cornellians, both past and present, with all Cornell
17 faculty and staff, and with all friends of the
18 College.

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