

MAR 27 2003
Laid Over Under Rule 25

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45
2 BY WATTS, HEATON, REASONER, WISE, DOLECHECK, BOGGESS,
3 WHITAKER, SWAIM, ARNOLD, JONES, GASKILL, B. HANSEN,
4 and STRUYK

5 A Resolution requesting the State Department of
6 Transportation to identify the Mormon Trail route
7 across Iowa on the official Iowa highway map.

8 WHEREAS, in 1846, the year that the State of Iowa
9 was officially admitted to the Union, a tragic series
10 of events forced nearly 20,000 citizens of Nauvoo,
11 Illinois, who were members of the Church of Jesus
12 Christ of Latter-Day Saints, to abandon their homes
13 and seek refuge on the western banks of the
14 Mississippi River; and

15 WHEREAS, in February 1846, severe winter weather
16 froze the river, allowing wagons to cross over into
17 Iowa, but claiming the lives of many who died of
18 extreme exposure; and

19 WHEREAS, parties were eventually organized to
20 transport families and their belongings to a new
21 settlement to be established in the West, and the
22 story of that journey is one of the most tragic, yet
23 triumphant, examples in American history of human
24 determination to survive against overwhelming odds;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, in addition to those who made the original
27 trek across Iowa, Nebraska, and Wyoming on their way
28 into Utah on the route that is now known as the Mormon
29 Trail, many thousands more followed in the years
30 afterward, and today the Mormon Trail is recognized to

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1 be as significant historically as the Oregon Trail and
2 other trails used for westward expansion; and

3 WHEREAS, when the original residents of Nauvoo fled
4 their city, they left behind a temple which was
5 destroyed by mobs and vandals, and the Church of Jesus
6 Christ of Latter-Day Saints has now completed
7 reconstruction of that temple on the original site;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the rebuilt temple in Nauvoo is an added
10 attraction for descendants of the original residents
11 of the city, who will be traveling to Nauvoo in future
12 years, along with others interested in the history of
13 those people, to visit the home of their ancestors;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, there are several significant Mormon Trail
16 sites along the U.S. Highway 34 corridor across
17 southern Iowa that may represent a tourism opportunity
18 for cities along that corridor; NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
20 That the State Department of Transportation is
21 requested to identify the Mormon Trail route across
22 Iowa on the official highway map issued periodically
23 by the Department and made available to the traveling
24 public in publications and at rest areas throughout
25 Iowa.

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