

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY ANGELO

1 A Resolution honoring the town of Afton on its
2 sesquicentennial anniversary year.

3 WHEREAS, the town of Afton was platted in 1854 with
4 a center block-square park on land owned by E. A.
5 Temple of Chariton, and every alternate lot was
6 donated to the county to be sold and the proceeds
7 spent for the erection of public buildings; and

8 WHEREAS, Mrs. Temple named the town either from the
9 song "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton" or for the River Afton
10 in Scotland; and

11 WHEREAS, church services held in a private home in
12 1855 heralded the beginning of the Methodist Church in
13 Afton, and on July 4, 1855, a flagpole was raised and
14 a flag made by the town's ladies flew proudly; and

15 WHEREAS, Afton was the county seat for Union County
16 from 1855 until 1890; and

17 WHEREAS, the first house in Afton, built in 1855 by
18 David Fife, was constructed of logs and used both as a
19 dwelling and a store, stocked with goods brought by
20 wagon from St. Joseph, Missouri; a two-story log hotel
21 was built the same year, followed by a post office in
22 1856 and the first courthouse in 1857; and

23 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1859, The Afton Eagle
24 became Union County's first newspaper, followed in
25 1871 by a second newspaper, The Afton News, which was
26 the forerunner of the current Afton Star-Enterprise;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, in 1867, D. J. Spencer established a
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1 brickyard west of town that was in operation for 50
2 years and produced the bricks for many of the
3 buildings in Afton and nearby Creston, including the
4 "new" courthouse built in 1872 on Afton's town square;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the railroad known as the Burlington and
7 Missouri River Road, now the Burlington Northern,
8 arrived in 1868; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1954, the Afton Centennial Celebration,
10 held in conjunction with the Union County Fair, was
11 attended by an estimated 15,000 people and featured
12 Governor William S. Beardsley as the evening speaker,
13 as well as a large parade, a beef barbeque, local
14 ladies in long skirts, a whisker competition for the
15 local men, window displays, a period clothing style
16 show, and a local talent show, with fireworks closing
17 out the day; and

18 WHEREAS, the town of Afton is located in Union
19 County, near highways 34 and 69, and in close
20 proximity to Three Mile Lake which, with its 24 miles
21 of shoreline, provides not only water and wildlife
22 recreation, but flood control and a source of water
23 for surrounding communities; and

24 WHEREAS, today Afton has a population of 917, with
25 402 households, and boasts four churches, several
26 social and service organizations, a golf club,
27 thriving local businesses, and a very efficient
28 volunteer fire and rescue unit; and

29 WHEREAS, Afton is celebrating its 150th anniversary
30 on June 26, 2004, in conjunction with the annual

1 Lion's Pre-Fourth Celebration on June 27, and all
2 former and current residents and friends are invited
3 to attend and celebrate their heritage; NOW THEREFORE,
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
5 recognizes and extends its congratulations to the town
6 of Afton on the town's sesquicentennial anniversary
7 and for its 150 years of service to its citizens and
8 to the State of Iowa.

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