

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY RIELLY

1 A Resolution honoring Iowa's Amana Colonies on its
2 sesquicentennial.

3 WHEREAS, the Community of True Inspiration grew out
4 of the German Lutheran Church in the early 18th
5 century, with some 800 members of this movement coming
6 to the United States in 1842; and

7 WHEREAS, the group purchased 18,000 acres in the
8 then-fledgling State of Iowa, creating the Community
9 of True Inspiration (the Amana Society) in 1855; and

10 WHEREAS, the inspirationists called their new home
11 "Amana", a word taken from the Old Testament Song of
12 Solomon, meaning "to remain faithful"; and

13 WHEREAS, a strong commitment to church discipline
14 and close community relationships caused the
15 inspirationists to adopt a communal way of life, while
16 at the same time embracing industry and economic
17 development; and

18 WHEREAS, by the 1860s the Amana Colonies consisted
19 of over 20,000 acres of land on which seven villages
20 were established: the original village of Amana, West
21 Amana, South Amana, High Amana, East Amana, Middle
22 Amana, and Homestead; and

23 WHEREAS, with its combination of spiritual devotion
24 and industry, the Amana Colonies quickly became an
25 agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing center;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, in 1932 the members separated the
28 spiritual role of the colonies from its secular
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1 activity by creating the Amana Society, Incorporated,
2 to operate the colony business enterprises; and

3 WHEREAS, today, the Amana Society, Inc., owns and
4 manages some 26,000 acres of farm, pasture, and forest
5 land and manages a variety of business enterprises,
6 while the Amana Church continues to be a vital part of
7 the Amana community; and

8 WHEREAS, the Amana Colonies today is one of Iowa's
9 preeminent tourist destinations, offering unique
10 scenic, historical, dining, and shopping
11 opportunities; and

12 WHEREAS, the Amana Colonies is celebrating its
13 150th anniversary with a variety of celebrations and
14 events lasting through September 2005; NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
16 congratulates the people of the Amana Colonies on its
17 sesquicentennial and notes its unique place in Iowa's
18 history; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the
20 Senate invites all Iowans to visit the Amana Colonies
21 during the sesquicentennial celebrations and
22 experience this truly remarkable part of Iowa.

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