

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE CITY OF BOISE AND ITS RESIDENTS ON THE CITY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the city of Boise sits in a lush, verdant valley marking the boundary between the desert Great Basin to the south and the forested Rocky Mountains to the north, a location with abundant natural resources and a climate advantageous to a wide range of activities; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Shoshoni tribe of native Americans in prehistoric and historic eras occupied much of the region that includes the present-day city of Boise, and the Bannock and other native groups also lived and passed through this region; and

WHEREAS, early 19th century French Canadian explorers, among the first Europeans to visit this area, described it using the French words "les bois," meaning "wooded," which was eventually adapted to create the city's formal name; and

WHEREAS, gold fever hit the region in 1862 after discoveries in the nearby Boise Basin, and the allure of potential riches attracted aspiring miners and subsequently brought opportunities for entrepreneurs to establish supply and service businesses; and

WHEREAS, the rise of mining also created a need for irrigated farmland, and beginning with the Ridenbaugh Canal in 1878, the Boise River soon fed dozens of ditches and diversions that supplied the lifeblood for a booming agricultural economy across the entire valley; and

WHEREAS, the city of Boise was established one hundred fifty years ago on July 7, 1863, with the platting of ten blocks by Henry Chiles Riggs, William Ritchie and Tom Davis, and the city is thus celebrating its Sesquicentennial Anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, Boise holds special significance in Idaho, being the state's largest city in its most populous region; the state's capital city and its center of government; and the state's economic engine by virtue of the large number of businesses and many types of industry that have found it a profitable place to call home; and

WHEREAS, Boise boasts the greatest concentration of arts in the state and is therefor considered by many to be Idaho's heart of the arts with more than 120 cultural opportunities ranging from the performing and visual arts to the literary arts and more; and

WHEREAS, Boise is home to Boise State University, which began as a two-year parochial school in the 1930s, became a public junior college, grew to a four-year institution and later a state university, and now enrolls more students than any other institution of higher education in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Boise State University is also justifiably famous for its blue-turf football stadium and its team, the Broncos, that plays upon it and

1 has been nationally ranked for more than a decade, winning nine postseason  
2 bowl games, including two Bowl Championship Series games, college foot-  
3 ball's most elite and prestigious series of postseason games; and

4 WHEREAS, throughout its one hundred fifty year history, Boise has been  
5 the birthplace and home of remarkable men and women who have distinguished  
6 themselves nationally and internationally in the fields of law, literature,  
7 music, the arts, athletics, philanthropy, politics and even space explo-  
8 ration; and

9 WHEREAS, the same combination of adventure, ambition, industry, inno-  
10 vation and enterprise that led to the city's founding has created a cradle  
11 for entrepreneurs, innovators and visionaries whose work has had a global  
12 reach, helping create the Panama Canal, Hoover Dam and the Chunnel; potato  
13 chips and computer memory chips; the supermarket, engineered wood products  
14 and locomotives; the laser printer and enough patents to rank Boise among the  
15 nation's most prominent intellectual incubators; and

16 WHEREAS, the Sesquicentennial Anniversary's year long commemoration,  
17 known officially as BOISE 150, will be centered on three themes -- environ-  
18 ment, enterprise and community -- that will trace the arc of Boise's story  
19 from its founding to the present day and frame the discussion about the  
20 city's future; and

21 WHEREAS, the Boise Department of Arts and History kicked off the Sesqui-  
22 centennial Anniversary celebration on January 4, 2013, and will sponsor  
23 events throughout the year including, a large community party in Julia Davis  
24 Park on July 7, 2013, one hundred fifty years from the date the city was plat-  
25 ted; and

26 WHEREAS, the city will sponsor numerous other events, such as the THINK-  
27 ING 150 weekend, when citizens will learn about the BOISE 150 themes of  
28 environment, enterprise and community; numerous public art dedications;  
29 the Sesqui-Speaks series, a free informal lecture series featuring local  
30 experts presenting on a wide range of historical and current topics; a mer-  
31 chant program that gives local businesses the opportunity to brand their own  
32 BOISE 150 products; and the Sesqui-Shop, a downtown storefront where BOISE  
33 150 memorabilia can be acquired and with special space for exhibition and  
34 education activities throughout the year; and

35 WHEREAS, during BOISE 150, Mayor David H. Bieter will host two signature  
36 events: the Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Arts and History in September  
37 and the Mayor's Musical Celebration in October.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
39 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
40 the Senate concurring therein, that we hereby recognize and congratulate  
41 Boise City and its residents on its Sesquicentennial Anniversary to be cel-  
42 ebrated on July 7, 2013.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
44 tives shall present a copy of this resolution to Mayor David H. Bieter of the  
45 City of Boise.