

ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 53

Introduced by Baker, 30.

WHEREAS, the Homestead Act of 1862 was signed by President Abraham Lincoln which gave 160 acres of land to any man or woman who would build a home and make improvements and farm the land for five years; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead Act allowed settlement of almost ten percent or 270 million acres of public land and placed it in the hands of settlers; and

WHEREAS, in 1936, with the backing of United States Senator George Norris, Congress passed a law which was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt establishing a new unit in the National Park system called the Homestead National Monument of America; and

WHEREAS, the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice commemorates and remembers the hardships and pioneer spirit of early settlers at the homestead site of Daniel Freeman who filed the very first claim in 1863; and

WHEREAS, each homestead created paper documents known as case files which exist only as paper originals. The complete collection of case files consists of over 30 million pieces of paper stored in the National Archives in Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the Homestead National Monument of America has been involved in the project to digitize all 30 million documents of the homestead case files collection; and

WHEREAS, the United States Mint's 2015 America the Beautiful Quarters Program will launch the Homestead National Monument of America quarter on February 10, 2015, with approximately 10 million quarters minted each day; and

WHEREAS, the quarter design represents the essential things a homesteader needed to survive including food, housing, and water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature congratulates the Homestead National Monument of America on the 2015 launch of the Homestead National Monument of America quarter.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Homestead National Monument of America.