

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

Senators Irwin, Geiss and Santana offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to commemorate the city of Ypsilanti's 200th  
2 Founder's Day.

3           Whereas, Ypsilanti, Michigan, was founded on April 22, 1823,  
4 as "Woodruff's Grove" on land belonging to the Anishinaabe people,  
5 including the Ojibwe, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi; and

6           Whereas, As the first settlement in Washtenaw County,  
7 Ypsilanti was named after Greek General Demetrius Ypsilanti, a hero  
8 in the Greek War of Independence; and

9           Whereas, Ypsilanti has a proud record of abolition prior to  
10 the Civil War, being a part of the Underground Railroad to help  
11 free enslaved people; and

1           Whereas, The Asher Aray family, who had been free for  
2 generations, were willing to risk their lives to help fugitive  
3 slaves as conductors; and

4           Whereas, Over 70 Black men from Ypsilanti fought in the Civil  
5 War in the 102nd United States Colored Troops Infantry Regiment;  
6 and

7           Whereas, Ypsilanti was home to Helen McAndrew, who established  
8 herself as the first female doctor in Washtenaw County, Mary Ann  
9 Starkweather, whose charitable generosity contributed to much of  
10 the city's growth, and Elijah McCoy, who developed 57 patents,  
11 including the "Real McCoy" engine lubrication device for railroad  
12 and factory engines; and

13           Whereas, In 1849, Ypsilanti was selected to host the location  
14 of the State Normal School, which later became Eastern Michigan  
15 University; and

16           Whereas, In 1869 Ypsilanti opened the first public library  
17 which was established by six women who had chosen the name the  
18 Ladies' Library Association of Ypsilanti; and

19           Whereas, The city of Ypsilanti played an important role in the  
20 Women's Suffrage Movement. In 1921, one year after the federal  
21 suffrage amendment was ratified, Estelle Downing was the first  
22 woman elected to city council; and

23           Whereas, Ypsilanti has the second largest historic district in  
24 Michigan, including Downtown, Depot Town, and West Cross; and

25           Whereas, The city of Ypsilanti has a honored place in the  
26 history of fighting against discrimination of all types in the  
27 successful passing of an inclusive Non-Discrimination Ordinance in  
28 1998; now, therefore, be it

29           Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative

**1** body commemorate the city of Ypsilanti's 200th Founder's Day.