

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

Senator Irwin 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

12 Whereas, The Asher Aray family, who had been free for

1 generations, were willing to risk their lives to help fugitive
2 slaves as conductors; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
29 body commemorate the city of Ypsilanti's 200th Founder's Day.