

House Resolution No. 551

Whereas, it is with great pride and sincere admiration that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize a momentous milestone in the history of an extraordinary Missouri city; and

Whereas, Unity Village in Jackson County will commemorate the resplendent occasion of its Fiftieth Anniversary on April 13, 2003; and

Whereas, Unity co-founders Charles and Myrtle Fillmore began the Unity religious and educational movement in downtown Kansas City in 1889, and purchased the first fifty-eight acres of land that would become Unity Village near Lee's Summit in 1919 for the purpose of creating a weekend retreat and campground for Unity workers; and

Whereas, the land encompassed by Unity Village has grown to include more than 1,400 acres of serene woodlands, gardens, and lakes, and is now the home of a worldwide ministry of prayer, publication, and education that helps individuals apply positive spiritual principles to their daily lives; and

Whereas, formerly known as Unity Camp and Unity Farm, Unity Village was designed in the early 1920s by W. Rickert Fillmore, one of the elder Fillmore's sons, as a Mediterranean-style oasis in the middle of Missouri cornfields, which attracted thousands of visitors from forty-five states and thirty countries in 2002; and

Whereas, on April 13, 1953, the Jackson County Court gave formal approval for the incorporation of Unity Farm into the Town of Unity Village upon petition of eighty-six of the inhabitants of Unity Farm; and

Whereas, more than thirty-three million pieces of mail each year are sent worldwide from Unity Village, including the Daily Word, a monthly devotional magazine that is distributed in nine languages to more than 175 countries throughout the world; and

Whereas, all citizens, young and old, remain proud of the uniqueness of Unity Village and everything it has to offer:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join with the County of Jackson in extending our warmest and most hearty congratulations to all the dedicated leaders and citizens of Unity Village upon this very special anniversary event, and further extend to them our very best wishes for continues progress and success in the new millennium; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Unity Village.

Offered by _____
 Representative Curt Dougherty
 District No. 53

 Representative Paul LeVota
 District No. 52

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 551, adopted March 3, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker