

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 16

## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE SHIELDS.

1875H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, in the spring of 1843, nearly 1,000 people left from Fitzhugh's Mills,  
2 Missouri, bound for Oregon; and

3

4           **WHEREAS**, this led to the first significant start of a western migration that would  
5 involve approximately 500,000 pioneers; and

6

7           **WHEREAS**, other trading posts and towns emerged as jumping-off sites for those  
8 headed west, including Independence, Missouri; St. Joseph, Missouri; and Council Bluffs, Iowa;  
9 and

10

11           **WHEREAS**, St. Joseph emerged as the major starting point for these pioneers and  
12 wagon trains. The town's early success as a trading post led to it becoming a center of  
13 commerce, communication, and trade, along with a booming population. St. Joseph had a well-  
14 established ferry and steamboat operation for crossing the Missouri River with wagons and  
15 livestock, as well as the most established center of commerce west of St. Louis at that time,  
16 complete with general stores and mercantiles from which emigrants could obtain equipment and  
17 supplies for the five-month journey west; and

18

19           **WHEREAS**, the banks of the Missouri River and the surrounding community of St.  
20 Joseph became the gathering point for family and friends to form their trains, hire or appoint a  
21 trail boss, and work out final logistics before crossing the Missouri River into the vastness of the  
22 open plains and prairies; and

23

24           **WHEREAS**, it has been estimated that over 200,000 pioneers launched from St. Joseph;  
25 and

26

27           **WHEREAS**, in 1853, St. Joseph become the western terminus for the telegraph; and

28

29           **WHEREAS**, in 1859, St. Joseph became the western terminus for the railroad with the  
30 arrival of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad. Additionally, in 1860, St. Joseph was the eastern  
31 terminus for transcontinental communication with the start of the Pony Express:

32

33           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
34 Representatives of the One Hundred First General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
35 concurring therein, hereby recognize St. Joseph, Missouri, as the beginning of the Oregon Trail.

36

37           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
38 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the city  
39 of St. Joseph.

✓