

Senator Zorn offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 60.

A resolution to recognize the Bicentennial of Monroe County.

Whereas, The county of Monroe, Michigan's second oldest county created on July 14, 1817, and named in honor of President James Monroe, the 5th President of the United States; and

Whereas, The county of Monroe is endowed with rich historical and natural resources, built on a strong agricultural base, home to innovative industries, and populated with a dedicated citizenry; and

Whereas, Monroe County is active in the preservation and presentation of its history by recognizing such significant sites such as the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, Dundee Old Mill Museum, Navarre Anderson Trading Post, and the General George Armstrong Custer Equestrian statue; and

Whereas, Today, Monroe County is acknowledged as a transportation hub including the largest highway gateway into Michigan, home to Michigan's First Road and having the state's only international port on Lake Erie; and

Whereas, Monroe County is made up of 14 townships--the first Michigan county to divide into townships; and

Whereas, Ash Township is a rich agricultural community that was established in 1837 with the Village of Carleton to follow in 1872, and is the home to a mixture of residential and agricultural lands; and

Whereas, Bedford Township is the site of Banner Oak School, built in 1871, and is on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites; and

Whereas, Berlin Township contains Pointe Mouillee State Game Area; and

Whereas, Dundee Township is the site of the Dundee Old Mill, which over the years has served as a grist mill, hydro-electric power plant, Ford factory, fabricating factory, and museum; and

Whereas, Erie Township pioneers were of French Canadian ancestry, with many current residents being descendants of these families; and

Whereas, The proud legacy of Exeter Township is farming. Modest residential growth in the rural community continues to be steady due to its central location between the major employment centers of Toledo, Ann Arbor and Detroit; and

Whereas, Frenchtown Township is home to Sterling State Park and Detroit Edison's Fermi II Nuclear Plant; and

Whereas, Ida Township is the home of the Christmas in Ida Festival and Parade of Lights;
and

Whereas, The LaSalle Township area contained a settlement along Otter Creek which was established by French pioneers in 1794, and this makes LaSalle Township one of the earliest settled areas in Monroe County; and

Whereas, London Township is home to London Methodist Church, one of the oldest churches in the county; and

Whereas, Milan Township's economic backbone is agriculture and light industry; and

Whereas, The city of Monroe, also named in honor of President James Monroe, is home to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, the only National Park dedicated to telling the story of the War of 1812; and

Whereas, Monroe Charter Township was formed by an executive act of Governor Lewis Cass on May 4, 1818 and was one of the five original townships organized in Monroe county; and

Whereas, Raisinville Township pioneer settlers were the first citizens to fully organize a school district and construct the first public school in Michigan Territory; and

Whereas, Summerfield Township is traversed by the River Raisin, and is a rich agricultural community that produces world class produce; and

Whereas, Whiteford Township is an agricultural community; has a newly established disc golf course that will be a top course in the area; and fields for soccer, baseball, and walking trails go through a portion of Ayvar Prairie with wetland habitat where many species of birds can be seen; and

Whereas, The year 2017 will mark the 200th Anniversary of the creation of Monroe County;
and

Whereas, The state of Michigan acknowledges the importance of Monroe County's history;
and

Whereas, In preparation for this anniversary, Monroe County initiated a bicentennial coordination committee which has evolved into the Monroe County Bicentennial Alliance, comprised of citizens and organizations from across the county giving freely and generously of their time to commemorate this milestone in the history of Monroe County; and

Whereas, The Monroe County Bicentennial Alliance adopted the mission of celebrating and facilitating a year-long tribute to the Bicentennial of Monroe County; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of the legislative body support the mission and recognize the efforts of the Monroe County Bicentennial Alliance and its constituent members for

their cooperative coordination of programs and special events to raise awareness and to create a greater appreciation of Monroe County during its bicentennial celebration throughout 2017.