

No. R-208. House concurrent resolution commemorating the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Stephen A. Douglas, Brandon's most famous native son.

(H.C.R.157)

Offered by: Representatives Carr of Brandon and Shaw of Pittsford

Offered by: Senators Flory, French, and Mullin

Whereas, no person born in the town of Brandon has played a more illustrious role in U.S. history than Stephen A. Douglas, who engaged in the famous 1858 U.S. Senate campaign debates with Abraham Lincoln, and

Whereas, Stephen A. Douglas left Vermont at age 20 and migrated to Illinois, the state which became his home, and

Whereas, he rose rapidly to political prominence in the Illinois Democratic Party, and

Whereas, in 1843, Stephen A. Douglas was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where this 30-year old legislator impressed his colleagues as a hard worker and a gifted speaker, and

Whereas, this short and heavysset congressman soon became known as the "Little Giant," and

Whereas, the Illinois electorate recognized him as a master in the legislative and political arenas, and in 1846 they elected him to the U.S. Senate, and

Whereas, although a contender for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1852 and 1856, he was not nominated because of his controversial advocacy of popular sovereignty in the territories to determine the slavery question, and

Whereas, in 1858, as the highlight of Illinois's U.S. Senate campaign, U.S. Sen. Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln participated in a series of famous debates which focused on the slavery issue, and

Whereas, Stephen A. Douglas did secure the 1860 Democratic Presidential Nomination and returned to Brandon for the final time during the campaign, and

Whereas, he died in Chicago of typhoid fever on June 3, 1861, and

Whereas, on what would have been Stephen A. Douglas's centennial birthday, various commemorations were held in Brandon, including the dedication of a new monument in his memory, and

Whereas, the bicentennial anniversary of his birth will be celebrated on July 6, 2013 with the staging at the Brandon Town Hall, which was built in 1861, of a reading of Norman Corwin's *The Rivalry*, a dialogue about the events that transpired during the Lincoln-Douglas debates, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of Stephen A. Douglas, Brandon's most famous native son, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Brandon Town Clerk and the Brandon Historical Society.