

By: Senator D. Wallace

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR, ON FEBRUARY 5, 2025, THE SESQUICENTENNIAL
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF OSCEOLA.

Subtitle

TO HONOR, ON FEBRUARY 5, 2025, THE
SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
CITY OF OSCEOLA.

WHEREAS, the City of Osceola is located in east-central Mississippi County and was established in 1837, then became a city in 1853, and was incorporated a second time in 1875; and

WHEREAS, Osceola is one (1) of the two (2) county seats of Mississippi County, one (1) of two (2) judicial districts in the county, and is situated in the flat and fertile Arkansas Delta along the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the area Osceola now occupies was once inhabited by Native American tribes, and Europeans arrived around the time of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803; and

WHEREAS, the area Osceola now occupies began to be more widely settled during the 1830s following the New Madrid earthquake swarm of 1811-12, which was the highest magnitude earthquake in North America east of the Rocky Mountains and significantly reshaped the geography of the area; and

WHEREAS, from the time of its founding, Osceola grew in stature and economy due to the industries of timber and cotton harvesting; and



WHEREAS, the growth of the critical timber and cotton harvesting industries were buoyed by Osceola's eastern border, which follows the levee that protects the city from, yet also gives it access to, the Mississippi River, and thereby facilitated the transportation of goods by steamboat; and

WHEREAS, Osceola has a population of nearly seven thousand (7,000); and

WHEREAS, Osceola is famous for its role in the development of blues music and many famous blues musicians are Osceola natives, including Calvin Frazier, Albert King, Harvey Scales, and Son Seals; and

WHEREAS, Osceola has also been home to musicians across other musical genres, including Buddy Jewell, Billy Lee Riley, Jimmy Thomas, and Reggie Young; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate its rich musical heritage, Osceola Main Street, Inc. has been hosting the Osceola Heritage Music Festival since 1998,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate honor, on February 5, 2025, the sesquicentennial of the founding of the City of Osceola.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Osceola Mayor Joe Harris, Jr. by the Secretary of the Senate.