

The waterfalls for which Sioux Falls is named have long been an attractive feature. Burial mounds have been found near the site dating as far back as 500 B.C. The area was settled by Europeans in the 1850s, when two groups made claims to land around the falls. Fort Dakota was established in 1865, and shortly thereafter the town began to blossom. The railroads arrived in the 1880s, and over the course of the decade the population leapt from 2,164 to 10,167. Other major events for the area include the opening of the John Morrell plant in 1909, establishment of an airbase in 1942, and the conclusion of construction of the interstate highways in the early 1960s.

Modern Sioux Falls boasts a wide variety of educational, cultural, artistic, and recreational opportunities. The city has offerings from both public and private universities, including Augustana University and the University of Sioux Falls, as well as many specialized and technical schools for those seeking to further their educational goals. The city is served by the Argus Leader newspaper. The Old Courthouse Museum and the Pettigrew Museum are major attractions, as is the historic downtown area generally. The Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science, the Great Plains Zoo, and St. Joseph's Cathedral are only a small sample of the interesting places and activities in Sioux Falls.

Sioux Falls is celebrating its sesquicentennial with a variety of events over the summer, such as "150 Candles!", a musical tribute to the history of Sioux Falls; historic building tours; a sesquicentennial gala ball; a performance by He Sapa Dancers and Lakota Drum Group; a commemorative Sioux Falls Canaries baseball game and fireworks display; and a parade ending at Falls Park with a community picnic to follow. These activities will serve as a reminder of the shared history of the community and bring the close-knit people of Sioux Falls even closer together.

This anniversary is a significant milestone for Sioux Falls. After 150 years, the city is stronger than ever. I am pleased to publicly honor the achievements of this wonderful South Dakota community as they reach this juncture. As the slogan of the community celebration states, the citizens of Sioux Falls are "Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future."●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF ORTLEY, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the community of Ortley, SD.

Ortley is situated in the southwestern corner of Roberts County. Ortley was established on the Sisseton Wahpeton Indian Reservation when C.E. Anderson purchased the land in 1906. The town was originally named Anderson Townsite. However, the name

was later changed to Ortley to correspond with the name of the township in which it is located. The town was incorporated in 1907, and the first elected trustees were C.E. Anderson, Paul Halvorson, and D.L. Branum.

One year after the land was purchased, Ortley experienced an immense building boom. In 1907, a railway company established a depot and stockyard in the town. A labor yard, meat market, hotel, bank, hardware store, and general stores were also constructed. In the area in which Ortley is located the principal industries have been farming, raising livestock, and dairying.

Small towns like Ortley add to the character of our wonderful State. I am pleased to announce that Ortley will be celebrating its centennial on July 1, 2006. There are numerous events scheduled, including a car and motorcycle show, parade, softball game, and barbeque.

A hundred years after its founding, Ortley continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Ortley on this memorable occasion. ●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF STRATFORD, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the city of Stratford, SD. A latecomer in inclusion into Brown County, Stratford sprung up rapidly in just weeks.

Stratford was founded 100 years ago on the Minneapolis and St. Louis railways. Stratford was a convenient commuter system to many of its neighboring cities at the time. In just 5 years, Stratford reached its peak population of 600.

Stratford is one of South Dakota's classic small towns. It has been the home of industry and farm-related businesses, and its meat market is known for its homemade sausages, hams, and liverwurst. The Taylor Honey Company, which processes about a million pounds of honey annually, was established in 1955 and is still a booming business. The community created Stratford's volunteer fire protection in 1911, and the post office and Badger Hole, a cafe and bar, are open to this day.

A hundred years after its founding, Stratford continues to be a vital community and a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Stratford on this memorable occasion. ●

CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF WECOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the centennial of the founding of the town of Wecota, SD. The town, with its five streets and five avenues, is a place of great charm and character.

Wecota became a town when the Minneapolis and St. Louis railroad was completed. Although small, Wecota has had a rich history. The first building to be established in the community was a small schoolhouse. A year later, the town's post office was organized, which stayed in operation for 75 years. Of the original buildings that were built, a depot, school, bank, and elevators remain to this day.

The town has subsisted through many hardships. In 1919, a fire destroyed two grocery stores and the meat market. Then in 1926 a destructive hailstorm damaged most of the community's crops. After the hailstorm, many of Wecota's residents began to drift to other towns, though a core of dedicated residents still occupies the town.

The name "Wecota" is derived from an Indian word meaning "friendship," and the town holds true to its name. A hundred years after its founding, Wecota continues to be a great asset to South Dakota. I am proud to honor the achievements of Wecota on this memorable occasion. ●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF TEA, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Tea, SD. Tea is enriched with a vibrant history reaching back to the growth of the railroads and continuing to the present, with Tea now being the fastest growing city in the State.

Tea's unusual name was discovered when the community was asked to submit 10 town names to the Postal Service but only 9 could be decided upon. A recess was called during a town meeting at which tea was served. Someone suggested the name "Tea" be added to the list. Shortly after, this tight-knit community was informed that their new name would be Tea. Tea was officially incorporated in 1906.

Tea's first bank was opened in 1900 in the place that is now O'Toole's bar. Unfortunately, the bank went broke in 1922 prior to the Depression. Despite the failure of the bank, Tea developed beautifully with its own post office, schoolhouse, cafes, general store, and lumberyard. Woodman Hall was the center of the town's social activities, hosting everything from roller skating to school plays. More recently, a new high school was opened in August 2005 and is a point of pride for the community. Tea is currently served by the Tea-Harrisburg Champion newspaper.

I congratulate Tea in achieving 100 wonderful years. During the week of June 10, the community gathered to celebrate with a Wild West Show, the coronation of Ma and Pa Teapot and Ecumenical church service. This celebration tied the community together even tighter, as they commemorated their history and looked to their future.