

#9
4/24/18

RESOLUTION # 12,716

REDEDICATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY COURTHOUSE CORNERSTONE

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors in 1915 chose William L. Steele, an architect of unbridled imagination and a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan, to design our Woodbury County Courthouse; and

WHEREAS, with associate architects George Elmslie and William Purcell, William Steele presented the Board with bold and intricate plans for what is now the largest public Prairie School building in the United States, the style garnering its name from long horizontal framing and arrowhead motifs paying homage to the horizons of Midwestern prairies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, including Henry Metz, E.C. Copeland, Robert J. Anderson, Edward Cradit, and John F. Lord, unanimously approved the plans, and in 1916 began construction of the \$850,000 courthouse which utilized local union workers and Roman-style brick from Sioux City Brick & Tile, and was completed in 1918; and

WHEREAS, the Board in December 30, 1918 adopted a resolution that stated after “the Court House has been completed and occupied with comfort and satisfaction for some months,” the Supervisors extend “sincere thanks and appreciation” to William Steele and noted the work was “efficiently supervised and is of an exceedingly high grade, and the county has received full value, dollar for dollar, for the money invested,” and that today expert assessments place the current value up to \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, sculptor Alfonso Iannelli created masterpieces to adorn the courthouse, including the mighty Spirit of the Law, the family unit upon which civil society is built, and a great eagle stretching westward toward the future of America; and

WHEREAS, the murals of John W. Norton sit under the beauty of the rotunda’s elaborate dome, and represent the compassion of justice, the American work ethic, a community’s dream of progress, and the exemplary sacrifice of men and women for the defense of liberty and the protection of freedom during WWI; and

WHEREAS, the building originally a subject of public controversy and skepticism, has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1973, has been a National Historic Landmark since 1996, has been named one of 200 key buildings in the United States by Whitney School of Design in New York City, and today is recognized as a remarkable work of craftsmanship; and

WHEREAS, the Courthouse has, to this day, and we hope for many generations to come, provided essential services and countless noble endeavors for the public good, with restorative efforts pledged to preserve our past while recommitting our promise to future generations; and

WHEREAS, the greatest value of the courthouse is the commitment to excellence, service, justice, and civil society that the people who labor and serve here represent to Woodbury County,

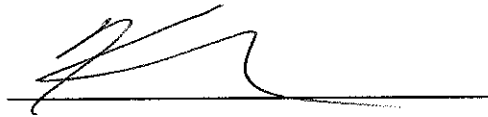
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WOODBURY COUNTY, IOWA the rededication of the time capsule we have withdrawn and now replace within the cornerstone of this great courthouse, which reminds us to honor truths and traditions needed for the next 100 years, and thus pause for a moment of hallowed reflection with deep appreciation for those who came before us, and who crafted such a building in a spirit of excellence for us to preserve for future generations.

BE IT SO RESOLVED this 24th day of April, 2018.

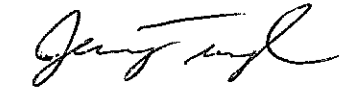
WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



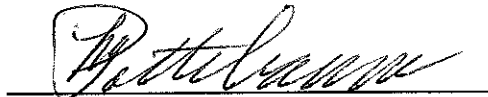
Rocky L. De Witt, Chairman



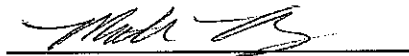
Keith W. Radig, Member



Jeremy J. Taylor, Member

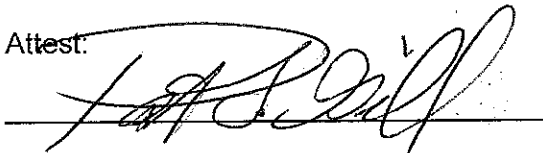


Marty J. Pottebaum, Member



Matthew A. Ung, Member

Attest:



Patrick F. Gill, Woodbury County Auditor