

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 35

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## **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Whereas, in 1753, Josiah Hornblower, an English engineer who was an associate and rival of James Watt, assembled the 1st functioning steam engine in the Western Hemisphere in Belleville, New Jersey, to pump water from the Schuyler copper mines;

Whereas, approximately 40 years after such assembly, the 1st steam engine made in the United States was manufactured in a foundry in Belleville from designs by Josiah Hornblower;

Whereas the designs were commissioned by Nicholas Roosevelt, who was the great-uncle of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt, to power the Polacca, which was the 1st experimental steamboat in the United States;

Whereas the Polacca negotiated the Passaic River on October 21, 1798, which was several years before Robert Fulton's boat, Clermont, sailed the Hudson River;

Whereas historians herald the invention of the steam engine as the beginning of the industrial revolution;

Whereas the presence of Josiah Hornblower in Belleville brought many of the initiators of the industrial revolution in the United States to Belleville;

Whereas such individuals included members of the Rutgers family, many of whom are buried in the cemetery of the old Dutch Reformed Church in Belleville; and

Whereas Belleville has a rightful claim to the title "Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution": Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring), That—*

3            (1) the Congress recognizes Belleville, New Jer-  
4        sey, as the birthplace of the industrial revolution in  
5        the United States; and

1           (2) the President is authorized and requested to  
2           issue a proclamation honoring Belleville as such  
3           birthplace.

          Passed the House of Representatives October 7,  
1994.

Attest:

*Clerk.*

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Recognizing Belleville, New Jersey, as the birth-  
place of the industrial revolution in the United  
States.