

Office of the Mayor

Recognition

Lawrence, Kansas

WHEREAS: *John Brown, a man of deep faith and belief in the Bible, believed that all men are created equal and that all men are brothers, and was a man who believed slavery to be an abomination and against the will of God; and*

WHEREAS: *The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 opened up the possibility of the Kansas Territory becoming a slave state and resulted in an influx of settlers and activists, abolitionists known as Free Staters, and pro-slavery activists, commonly called Border Ruffians, who engaged in guerilla warfare. The Kansas Territory was plunged into so much violence that the eastern newspapers started to refer to the Territory as Bleeding Kansas; and*

WHEREAS: *In the late spring of 1855, and again in May of 1856, John Brown received word from his sons who had settled in the Kansas Territory, that his help was needed to fight for the cause of freedom against a large force of pro-slavery men that was poised to attack Lawrence, the headquarters of the Free-State movement; and*

WHEREAS: *Henry Clay Pate, who participated in the attack on Lawrence, set out to find and kill John Brown and established a base camp along the Santa Fe Road, known as Black Jack; and*

WHEREAS: *Two armed Free-State militias, one led by John Brown, joined forces and set out for the Black Jack campsite for a surprise attack at dawn; and*

WHEREAS: *The uncivil war at Black Jack inflamed the sentiments of people on both sides of the slavery issue, moving our nation closer and closer to all out war;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Amyx, Mayor of the City of Lawrence, Kansas, do hereby recognize the contributions of the Free Staters, led by John Brown, exemplified by their heroic efforts in the Battle of Black Jack, to uphold the principles that all men are created free, and furthermore, acknowledge that the Battle of Black Jack was the Dawn of the Civil War.

Mike Amyx
Mayor

June 1, 2010
