

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 79

Recognizing Belleville, New Jersey, as the birthplace of the industrial revolution in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. BRADLEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing Belleville, New Jersey, as the birthplace of the industrial revolution in the United States.

Whereas, in 1753, Josiah Hornblower, an English engineer who was an associate and rival of James Watt, assembled the first 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 first 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 first 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 Senate (the House of Representatives*
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

6 (2) the President is authorized and requested to
7 issue a proclamation honoring Belleville as such
8 birthplace.

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