

Taking its name from a post office run out of the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. George Phoenix, the city of Avon grew out of the 1879 expansion of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad. Prosperous agriculture in the western part of Bon Homme County led farmers and ranchers to seek expanded markets for their goods. Railroad officials, in turn, recognized the value of building a branch line from Napa to Platte to serve this need, and some 500 workers began the arduous task of laying the new line through the area. The start of work was closely followed by the opening of a saloon by Joe Sterba that would find its home in Avon's first permanent commercial building by 1900. Other businesses quickly joined the saloon, and Avon was soon a thriving community serving the agricultural region that surrounded it.

For most of its 125 years, the city of Avon has been served by the weekly newspaper, the Avon Clarion, which began publication in the winter of 1901. In an article that year, the paper boasted that Avon had, "without exception, the brightest and most encouraging future of any town along this line." In the 125 years since its founding, Avon has proven its ability to thrive and serve farmers and ranchers in the region. Currently, more than 550 people live in the city of Avon. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF BURKE

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Burke, SD. The town of Burke has enjoyed a proud past and looks forward to a bright future.

Founded in 1904, the town of Burke took its name from Charles Burke of Pierre, who served in the South Dakota legislature, U.S. Congress, and later as U.S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Burke was platted as a government townsite and surveyed by Sam Chilton. On August 4, homesteaders gathered in the center of the townsite and raced on foot, on horseback and with wagons to lay their claims to plots in the town. Though the town was born with the sound of the pistol that day, Burke did not experience the boom that many of the other towns in the area did. Burke's growth was slow and purposeful. Early settlers faced and overcame the hardships of South Dakota winters, tedious trips to the nearest railroad town for supplies, the devastation of tornadoes, and even terrorization from gamblers and thugs that had made their way into town. The citizens of Burke cleaned up the rough element and earned a reputation as one of the most peaceable and law-abiding towns in the county.

Since 1917, Burke has served as the county seat of Gregory County. The town lies about 30 miles west of the Missouri River in a region of fertile

farmland and gently rolling hills. Currently, more than 650 people live in Burke. The town celebrated its centennial birthday with festivities during the first week of August. Among the many events during the 5-day celebration were an alumni golf tournament, a centennial farm dance, a parade, an alumni banquet, a centennial coin auction, and a ballroom dance. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF TYNDALL

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of the town of Tyndall, SD. The town of Tyndall is a spirited and self-reliant county seat with a proud past and promising future.

In 1879, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway chose to enter Bon Homme County. Dan Currier build the first home and store along the railroad route in Tyndall, so-named for the English physicist John Tyndall who first explained what makes the sky blue. In 1884, Dan Currier opened the Grand Central Hotel, referred to as the greatest hotel this side of Chicago at the time. Mr. Currier remained active in the town's growth and became the first mayor in 1887. The first settlers in Tyndall were predominately German, Czech, and Irish. Their meeting halls were some of the first building in the town of Tyndall and many are preserved today.

A major attraction opened in Tyndall in 1989: the Soukup and Thomas Balloon Museum. The museum exhibits one of the best displays of ballooning history, including the first balloon basket to fly over the Soviet Union. The museum also houses a rare collection from the Hindenburg Airship as well as examples of balloon mail, lithographs, jewelry, trophies, and other collectibles. Tyndall hosted the 6th World Gas Balloon Championship and the 1st World Roziere Balloon Championship in 1990. The second annual International Balloon Rally was held in 1991 in Tyndall.

Though the railroad which gave birth to the town of Tyndall is no longer operational, the town continues to thrive, relying on friendly local business and aggressive agriculture. Currently 1,200 people reside in this progressive community. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF LAKE ANDES

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Lake Andes, SD. Lake Andes has experienced a proud century and looks forward to a promising future.

Founded in 1904, the town of Lake Andes sits on the southwest shore of its namesake. Measuring twelve miles in length and a mile and a half wide, Andes Lake is one of the most popular destinations for hunters and fishers in the State and sits at the center of one of the richest and most fertile sections of South Dakota.

Though it was platted in 1901, the town was not officially established until three years later, when town lots were sold on May 18, 1904. In 1911, the town welcomed the construction of a Carnegie Library, which still stands and has since been designated a historical structure for the State of South Dakota. Lake Andes became the county seat of Charles Mix County in 1916, prompting growth and prosperity that would lead to more than 80 years of stability in the town.

Currently, more than 800 people reside in the town of Lake Andes. In early June, Lake Andes held centennial festivities that coincided with the town's Fish Days celebration, an annual tradition that began in 1915, continued through 1969, and was reestablished in 1988. A parade, carnival, quilt show, and firemen's water fight were among the many celebratory events that weekend. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community.●

HONORING THE TOWN OF HERRICK

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I honor and publicly recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town of Herrick, SD. The town of Herrick has a strong sense of its past and anticipates a bright future.

Though it was originally named Willette, the town adopted the name of prestigious homestead lawyer Samuel Herrick soon after its 1904 founding. From 1906 to 1907, Herrick experienced a period of growth as it served as a stop along the railroad. Many of the original buildings in the town still stand, including the Town Hall built in 1913, which has been restored and is in use, and the old saloon, which has since become a family restaurant and bar. Two other structures find themselves on the National Register of Historic Places: the Herrick School House and Herrick Elevator.

Herrick's 105 proud residents and friends of the community celebrated the centennial at the end of July with festivities including an all-school reunion, the annual Squeal Meal celebration, and a hayride featuring buildings and homes that were built around the time of the founding. It is with great honor that I advise my colleagues of the achievements made by this great community.●

HONORING JEFFREY LEE NELSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I congratulate Jeff Nelson of Madison, SD,