

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND CELEBRATING THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IDAHO.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho was admitted into the United States on July 3, 1890, and a great seal was needed for the new state, the First Legislature of the State of Idaho adopted House Concurrent Resolution 1, creating a legislative committee to grant a prize of one hundred dollars for the best design of a great seal; and

WHEREAS, Emma Edwards Green, a highly educated woman who stopped in Idaho on her way home to California from art school in New York, decided to stay in Idaho for the rest of her life teaching art. Having recently arrived in Idaho, she submitted a design for the competition, which had entrants from all over the country, and the legislative committee unanimously accepted her design; and

WHEREAS, Governor Norman B. Willey delivered the one hundred dollar honorarium to Emma Edwards Green on March 4, 1891, and on March 14, 1891, the Idaho Legislature officially adopted her design; and

WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the State of Idaho is the only great seal in the United States designed by a woman. At the time of the adoption of Emma Edwards Green's design the issue of women's suffrage was hotly debated and her design features a woman in the foreground with a male laborer, symbolizing equality; and

WHEREAS, Idaho would later become the fourth state to guarantee a woman's right to vote by amending the Idaho Constitution in 1896, twenty-four years before the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteed that right to all women in the country; and

WHEREAS, the woman on the great seal also signifies justice, as denoted by the scales of justice in her hand. The woman further signifies liberty, as denoted by the liberty cap, a common artistic motif for freedom and the pursuit of liberty, placed on the end of a spear in the woman's other hand. The woman stands next to ripened wheat with wild Syringa, the state flower, growing at her feet. The liberty cap and woman's robes are white because Idaho was a virgin state; and

WHEREAS, mining was the chief industry in the State of Idaho in early statehood, represented by the male miner in the foreground who is dressed in grayish brown clothing typical of the time and standing on a rocky ledge with ore scattered at his feet, with his pick on his shoulder and his shovel at his side; and

WHEREAS, between the woman and the man is a shield, featuring the image of large trees to celebrate the immense timber industry in Idaho. A farmer plowing on the shield, as well as a sheaf of grain and a horn of plenty below

1 the shield, are emblematic of Idaho's agricultural resources. Because Idaho
2 had a law protecting large game, the head of a bull elk rises from the top of
3 the shield. Coursing through the center of the shield is the majestic Snake
4 River, the lifeblood of the State of Idaho, in the shadow of mountains in the
5 rosy glow before sunrise;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
7 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
8 the Senate concurring therein, that we commemorate the adoption of the Great
9 Seal of the State of Idaho for capturing the natural beauty, the varied in-
10 dustry, and the pioneering spirit of this great state.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we honor the memory of Emma Edwards Green for
12 memorializing forever the equality of men and women by her historic and sin-
13 gular accomplishment of being the only woman to design a great seal.