

# CROWELL CONNECTION

DISTRICT 27

STATE SENATOR JASON CROWELL - ROOM 323, STATE CAPITOL - JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

## Missouri Day

*A Day to Celebrate Missouri's Heritage*

This coming Wednesday, October 19, 2005 is Missouri Day—a day set aside to commemorate Missouri's history and to celebrate the achievements of all Missourians. The idea for the holiday came from Anna B. Korn who, as a member of the Missouri Historical Society, lobbied the General Assembly in 1915 to set aside the third Wednesday in October as Missouri Day. Her efforts paid off when the General Assembly approved the idea. In Korn's own words, the day is designed to “foster a love for our state's history and to teach rising generations of boys and girls the glories of Missouri.”



The reason Missouri Day is celebrated in October is perhaps due to the words of one of our state's most famous citizens—Mark Twain. He remarked, “If you want to see Missouri at her best, see her in October.”

The Show-Me State indeed has a lot to show. Since its inception as a state 179 years ago, Missouri has been and will continue to play an important role in the past, present and future of this great nation. Missouri has served as a gateway to Western expansion, been a pivotal player in freeing slaves and given birth to many noteworthy leaders, entertainers and citizens. To date, state lawmakers have designated 21 symbols as official representations of the Show-Me State, which reflects the wide range of Missouri's assets.

The French got the ball of Missouri discovery rolling when they established the first permanent settlement in the Southeast's Ste. Genevieve in the 1730s. Ste. Genevieve was the lone settlement in the expansive Louisiana territory until St. Louis was founded in 1764.

As was discovered when it was extensively explored, Missouri's land is rich with a variety of mineral resources, including zinc and silver. The state's early development is tied to lead mining after French settlers discovered significant deposits in the Mine La Motte and Potosi areas. Today, we are still a leading lead producer and possess one of the largest lime stone deposits in the world. Missouri also continues to be an important industrial and farming state in the Midwest region. Our location and the two great rivers that run through Missouri have helped stimulate agricultural growth, create jobs, enhance transportation and attract businesses.

Missouri's geographical makeup is especially unique. The nearly 70,000 square miles of Missouri landscape host more caves, more free-flowing streams and more types of wildflowers than any other state. The state also boasts 81 state parks, 5,475 caves, 14 major lakes and more than 30 rivers and creeks.

The diversity is also seen in the state's population. From the anchor cities of Kansas City and St. Louis, to the quaint charm of the small rural towns in between, Missouri is home to a range of people with Native American, Amish, German, French, English, Asian, African and Hispanic ethnicities. And among all the citizens from all walks of life are famous people who also call Missouri home, such as Walt Disney and the 33<sup>rd</sup> president of the United States, Harry S. Truman.

There's no doubt that our state deserves the nickname "the Show-Me State." Missouri's history can show you adventures of pioneers, discoveries of brave explorers and the trials of political bloodshed. Missouri's present can show you how far the nation's 24<sup>th</sup> state has evolved, with a thriving state government, booming industries, an abundance of tourist attractions and diverse communities. And Missouri's future can show you the glowing potential for the state to develop, flourish and become even greater.

Missouri Day passes each year without the extravagant hoopla and official observance as occurs with other holidays, such as Independence Day. But this October 19, make sure to reflect on and express pride in all things Missouri—because if you live in the Show-Me State, you have reason to celebrate.

## **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com> and <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

*Senator Jason Crowell represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry and Scott counties in the Missouri Senate.*