

RESOLUTION 3-H.F.No. 1391

A resolution urging the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing Eric Enstrom's photograph "Grace."

WHEREAS, in 1918, the photographer Eric Enstrom was working from a studio in Bovey, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, his attention was drawn to Charles Wilden, a poor shoe-scraper salesman whose gentle face gave Enstrom an idea for a picture; and

WHEREAS, Enstrom posed Wilden with a few simple objects and with bowed head and folded hands, to represent an attitude of humble thankfulness, and named his picture "Grace"; and

WHEREAS, the photograph's popularity grew, first as a black and white or sepia tone print, later as a hand-colored print, until at last Enstrom could not keep up with the demand and sold the copyright to Augsburg Publishing House in 1945; and

WHEREAS, the picture is now in the public domain; and

WHEREAS, "Grace" is known worldwide and is one of the country's best-loved religious images; and

WHEREAS, a group of citizens in Grand Rapids and Bovey, Minnesota, have sought the support of the public and the legislature in their drive to petition the United States Postal Service Selection Committee to adopt "Grace" for reproduction as a United States postage stamp; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it strongly urges the Selection Committee of the United States Postal Service to create a postage stamp reproducing Eric Enstrom's photograph "Grace."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the United States Postal Service Selection Committee, the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service, and Minnesota's Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Presented to the governor April 23, 2001

Signed by the governor April 26, 2001, 10:20 a.m.