

Proclamation



Dora Belle Miller

Whereas: Dora Belle Miller founded the first autoharp club in Iowa in 1989, which grew to more than 70 members and was known as the Happy Hearts Autoharp Club, And,

Whereas: Dora attracted some of the world's leading autoharp players to do workshops and concerts for the club, including Mike Jenton, Bryan Bowers, Carey Dobbert, the Bill Sky family, Lindsay Haisley, Carol Stober, Cathy Barton and Dave Para, and Karen Mueller, And,

Whereas: She played the autoharp in 30 states and Canada at such venues as the Iowa State Fair, the Living History Farms, the Warren County Log Cabin Days, and many other festivals, And

Whereas: Dora wrote many articles for the *Autoharp Clearinghouse*, *Autoharp Quarterly*,[®] *Tradition* magazine, and the River City friends of folk Music, And,

Whereas: She composed the song *Iowa, Beautiful Iowa*, which she regularly performed on her autoharp, And,

Whereas: Dora initiated an annual picnic for family and friends of club members held in Newton, Iowa, at the Maytag Bowl, And,

Whereas: She was called upon to put together a new event by the Living History Farms, which became known as the Iowa folk Heritage Weekend, And,

Whereas: Dora and members of her club were regular performers twice yearly at the Bluegrass Gospel Music Association festival in Colfax, Iowa, And,

Whereas: In 1990, she established the Happy Hearts Workshop Center at the National Old-Time Country Music Festival and Pioneer Exposition of Arts in Avoca, Iowa, an endeavor which was so successful, it was decided the autoharpers would get their own building called the Happy Hearts folk Center in 1992, And,

Whereas: Representing the Happy Hearts Autoharp Club, she was asked to serve as a member of the Midwest Producers Association dealing with the ongoing problems with the collection and distribution practices of ASCAP and BMI, And,

Whereas: In 1991, she was nominated to receive the National Traditional Country Music Association's "Producers Award" for her efforts in preserving old-time country, folk, and bluegrass music or the public in middle-America,

Therefore, let it be resolved that Dora Belle Miller be inducted with highest commendation as the 2017 posthumous member of the Autoharp Hall of fame.

So it is proclaimed on this, the 22th day of June in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen.