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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Mount Prospect was founded by a group of stalwart German immigrants, and today continues to be populated by a diverse population of residents from all over the world, living and working together; and

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WHEREAS, In 1874, a land speculator, named Ezra Eggleston, saw the area's potential; he built a train station and plotted a town on paper, naming it Mount Prospect; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1880s, hard-working Germans like John C. Moehling, John Meyn, and William Wille picked up where Eggleston left off, creating a small commerce center beside the tracks, close to Eggleston's train station; and

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WHEREAS, In 1894, William Busse, a man with lots of political influence in Cook County, settled in town and made Mount Prospect's development a personal priority project; and

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WHEREAS, In 1910, industry came to Mount Prospect; the Utility Battery Company and Mount Prospect Creamery were established; a year later, in 1911, the Mount Prospect Improvement Association was founded to make civic improvements such as kerosene street lamps, sidewalks, and oiled streets; Northwest Power and Light Company was also built that same

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1 year; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1917, 100 years ago, Mount Prospect reached a
3 population of 300 and incorporated as a village, allowing it to
4 enact its own laws and levy taxes to pay for roads, schools,
5 and other public improvements; and

6 WHEREAS, Mount Prospect was ahead of its time when it
7 welcomed a female physician, Dr. Louise Koester, in 1926, well
8 before women physicians were common; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1930, Mount Prospect was the only city or
10 village in Cook County that was not out of money and remained
11 open during the Great Depression; the tradition of very
12 conservative money choices kept both the Village and the Mount
13 Prospect State Bank from going bankrupt; and

14 WHEREAS, Mount Prospect boomed during the post-World War II
15 years, increasing its population from 1,720 in 1940 to 18,906
16 in 1960; it continued to grow by leaps and bounds, reaching
17 52,634 in 1980; and

18 WHEREAS, Mount Prospect contributed to the world when
19 George Stephen invented the Weber Kettle grill at his Mount
20 Prospect home on Can-Dota Avenue in 1952; from those humble
21 beginnings, he launched a firm that sells millions of dollars

1 of charcoal and gas grills annually; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1960, Randhurst Mall, the country's first
3 indoor, air conditioned mall, opened; in 2008, the mall was
4 rebuilt as an outdoor lifestyle center, which is currently a
5 thriving commercial area filled with well-known chain stores
6 and restaurants, specialty shops, a movie theater, and more;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mount Prospect has been preparing for its
9 centennial for over three years and, in the process, has
10 identified 33 homes and five commercial/religious/public
11 structures that date to the year of incorporation of 1917 or
12 earlier; and

13 WHEREAS, Mount Prospect has planned 18 months of
14 celebrations, including fireworks, a reenactment of
15 incorporation festivities, a festive dinner dance, a
16 community-wide fire hydrant painting project, and much more;
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Mount
21 Prospect and we wish it many more successful years; and be it
22 further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Mount Prospect Mayor Arlene A. Juracek.