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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to congratulate the Village of Winnebago on the occasion its 150th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, In 1850, there were 499 residents counted in the census in Winnebago Township; the only heads of household who weren't farmers were one minister, one moulder, 2 blacksmiths, and 4 mechanics; during that decade, Winnebago became a railroad boom town; each town at the west end of the Chicago & Galena Union line became a magnet of growth, fuelled by the tremendous pressure of farmers arriving, driving their livestock, or with wagon loads of produce ready for delivery to market; and

WHEREAS, During this period, the town was home to a hotel, warehouses, and stockyards; 1855 saw the first church, the first school class, and the completion of the first house; the 1860 census list includes 1,002 rural inhabitants in Winnebago Township; the Village listed 276 residents; and

WHEREAS, In 1868, a new 4-room school was completed and the First Presbyterian Church was started; formal incorporation of the Village of Winnebago occurred in 1878 and was followed by the prohibition of alcohol sales by local option; the population was estimated at nearly 600; and

WHEREAS, Winnebago entered a time of decline during the 1880s and beyond; there was a dilution of the railroad monopoly; some breadwinners commuted to work in Rockford, and many more did their shopping in the city, rather than locally; several disastrous fires destroyed the Main St. business buildings in the 1890s; and

WHEREAS, The Winnebago Town Hall was completed in 1893; in

1 1903, two rival telephone companies were set up in the Village;  
2 and the Winnebago Post Office began to serve several routes in  
3 1904; during the 1920s, there was growth in Winnebago; one  
4 basis of this growth was the consolidation of 2 rural school  
5 districts into the Winnebago Village system in the early 1920s;  
6 a new building was completed in 1925 to serve all 12 grades;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The Win-Bur-Sew Fire Protection District was  
9 established in 1943; the Winnebago Community Council began in  
10 1942 and handled the town's centennial in 1954, and it has  
11 continued youth activities and what has led to today's 4th of  
12 July celebration; by 1960, the village had grown to a  
13 population of 1,059; and

14 WHEREAS, The State completed a new cement road from U.S. 20  
15 through the village in 1948; the Village responded to expansion  
16 by putting in a water system by 1950 and a sewer plant by 1958;  
17 Winnebago High School was completed and dedicated in 1959,  
18 followed by the Jean McNair Middle School, and the replacement  
19 of the Dorothy Simon Elementary building; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1972, a volunteer library was renewed by the  
21 Jr. Women's Club; in 1978, the first multi-family housing  
22 project was opened; the 1990 census registered 1,840 residents  
23 of the Village, and 1992 saw the updating of the municipal  
24 sewer plant after years of restricted growth; and

25 WHEREAS, The township formed in 1849 has grown from a small  
26 rural village into a bedroom community of nearly 3,000 village  
27 residents and over 5,142 township residents; although growth in  
28 the community is inevitable, Winnebago still maintains a small  
29 town atmosphere; therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
31 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 congratulate the Village of Winnebago on the occasion its 150th  
2 anniversary; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the Village of Winnebago as an expression of our  
5 esteem.