



HR0837

LRB101 21289 MST 71881 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the City of Andover on the  
4 185th anniversary of its founding; and

5 WHEREAS, Andover is Henry County's oldest community; it was  
6 founded in 1835 by the visionary Presbyterian minister Rev.  
7 Ithamar Pillsbury; the fledgling colony was patterned after New  
8 Haven, Connecticut and envisioned as a seat of learning,  
9 religion, and commerce; and

10 WHEREAS, The mill, which was constructed in 1836, was Henry  
11 County's first industry and attracted many early settlers to  
12 the village; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1840, Swedish seaman Sven Nelson became a  
14 "landlubber" and settled in the area to enjoy the beautiful  
15 prairie land and the scenic Edwards River; and

16 WHEREAS, Swedish immigrants learned about Andover and  
17 sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, traveled by canal boat and  
18 covered wagon, and walked long distances to settle there; these  
19 early settlers were met with Andover hospitality, which still  
20 exists in the village today; and

1           WHEREAS, Andover's sister city is Kristdala, Sweden;  
2 during the latter half of the 19th century, some 2,000 persons  
3 left Kristdala and immigrated to the Andover area; this group  
4 consisted of approximately one half of the entire population of  
5 the town, and many of them settled on small parcels of land  
6 between the communities of Andover and Woodhull, which came to  
7 be known as Kristdala Backa (hills); today, Kristdala, which is  
8 located in Kalmar County in the province of Smaland, has a  
9 population of about 1,000; and

10           WHEREAS, Andover played an important role in the  
11 Underground Railroad with four known locations or "stations" in  
12 Andover, the Edwards River Mill located south of Andover, the  
13 Colony Brick House located at 1st & Ash Streets, the Woolsey  
14 House at Beech & 6th Streets, and the Mix-Lobeck House located  
15 at Pine & 8th Streets; while only the Colony Brick House  
16 building remains today, all of the sites have historical  
17 markers; Andover's early English settlers were very active in  
18 the abolitionist movement in the 1830s, and when the Swedes  
19 arrived in the 1840s, many of them also became involved with  
20 this movement; and

21           WHEREAS, For many years during the early and middle 20th  
22 century, Andover had a baseball team, which became known as the  
23 "Terrible Swedes"; they played on baseball diamonds with no  
24 fences, and collections were taken to pay for bats and balls;

1 in 1911, one of the team's pitchers, Franklin Johnson, signed  
2 as a pitcher for Davenport in the old Three I League and then  
3 played for the St. Louis Cardinals; and

4 WHEREAS, Andover's English and Swedish heritage has been  
5 preserved for visitors, and the past is joined with the present  
6 in a pleasant Illinois rural atmosphere; there are 25  
7 information signs located throughout the Andover area  
8 highlighting special sites; and

9 WHEREAS, Andover will celebrate its 185th birthday during  
10 the first weekend of June in 2021; the festival was originally  
11 scheduled for 2020 but has been postponed due to the COVID-19  
12 pandemic; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we congratulate the City of Andover on the 185th anniversary of  
16 its founding; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the City of Andover as an expression of our esteem  
19 and respect.