



HR0895

LRB102 28279 LAW 40150 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the City of Du Quoin on  
4 the occasion of its 100th anniversary of hosting the DuQuoin  
5 State Fair; and

6           WHEREAS, The DuQuoin State Fair started in the spring of  
7 1923 when a group of successful and ambitious Du Quoin  
8 business leaders, led by William R. Hayes, developed the idea  
9 of sponsoring an event that would attract people from all over  
10 Southern Illinois; the group called the event the DuQuoin  
11 State Fair because they wanted it to become as nice, as  
12 attractive, and as well received in the area as the Illinois  
13 State Fair in Springfield; and

14           WHEREAS, The DuQuoin State Fair quickly started garnering  
15 the types of crowds typical of the Illinois State Fair; during  
16 the 1920s, the fair's crowds were estimated to consist of  
17 50,000 to 60,000 visitors in the first few years; the fair  
18 continues to make an impact on the region, having had millions  
19 pass through its gates throughout the years with an estimated  
20 300,000 visitors each year; and

21           WHEREAS, Throughout the late 1950s through 1980, the  
22 DuQuoin State Fair was known as the Home of the Hambletonian,

1 harness racing's Kentucky Derby; in more recent years, auto  
2 racing has been a popular attraction, with the fair hosting  
3 legendary racecar drivers each year; the fair has additionally  
4 featured hundreds of prominent entertainers on its stage  
5 throughout the years, including Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Liza  
6 Minnelli, Sonny & Cher, Johnny Carson, Carol Channing, Johnny  
7 Cash, Willie Nelson, Roy Clark, Lynn Anderson, and Tammy  
8 Wynette; and

9 WHEREAS, The DuQuoin State Fair has proudly become the  
10 most popular attraction in Southern Illinois; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we congratulate the City of Du Quoin on the 100th anniversary  
14 of hosting the DuQuoin State Fair, and we wish the city  
15 continued success in hosting the fair, a mainstay of the  
16 city's culture, in the years to come; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to City of Du Quoin Mayor Guy H. Alongi as an  
19 expression of our esteem and respect.