



HR0388

LRB103 34097 MST 63915 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Optimist Club of
4 Belleville on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its
5 founding; and

6 WHEREAS, The Optimist Club of Belleville was chartered and
7 affiliated with Optimist International on September 23, 1923;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Optimist Club of Belleville has sponsored and
10 mentored over 16 adult clubs and nine Junior Optimist Clubs in
11 southern Illinois since its origin; it currently sponsors the
12 Octagon Club at Belleville Township High School East and a
13 Junior Optimist Club at Roosevelt Elementary School; and

14 WHEREAS, The Optimist Club of Belleville participates each
15 year in the Optimist International Scholarship, Oratorical and
16 Essay Contests; it also participates in the Illinois District
17 Optimist themed poster contest for elementary school children
18 each year; and

19 WHEREAS, The Optimist Club of Belleville took over
20 sponsorship and operation of the Santa house in downtown
21 Belleville in 1994, which serves over 2,000 children each

1 year; the accompanying Santa parade, which also began in 1994,
2 is one of the largest in southern Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, The Optimist Club of Belleville has worked
4 diligently since 2002 with the schools in Belleville Township
5 High School District 201 to identify and assist families whose
6 children are dealing with cancer and need assistance,
7 providing money, gas cards, transportation, and other needed
8 resources through the Optimist International Childhood Cancer
9 Campaign; the program was expanded and renamed the Childhood
10 Health and Wellness Program in 2022, which focuses on support
11 for four areas, including healthy lifestyles, chronic
12 diseases, mental health, and disabilities; the club expanded
13 its support to improve the quality of life for children across
14 a broader spectrum of needs in 2023; and

15 WHEREAS, The Optimist Club of Belleville is committed to
16 supporting programs that enhance the health and wellness of
17 children in its community, donating to charitable
18 organizations that provide services to children and donating
19 thousands of volunteer hours; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate the Optimist Club of Belleville on its 100th
23 anniversary, and we wish them many more wonderful years; and

1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the Optimist Club of Belleville as a symbol of our
4 respect and esteem.