



HR0529

LRB103 35646 ECR 65721 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Willy Goellner for his more than five decades of success and innovation in manufacturing and to recognize the positive impact he has made by employing hundreds of local workers and mentoring the next generation of thought leaders in the industrial sector; and

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WHEREAS, Willy Goellner was born to Austrian parents residing in Poland in the early 1930s, and his childhood and family were greatly affected by World War II; and

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WHEREAS, Willy Goellner's father died in a work camp in Siberia, and the rest of his family was sent to a concentration camp; he and one of his sisters were the only two members of his family to survive; and

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WHEREAS, Willy Goellner worked as a manual laborer after the war but sought to improve his life through education; he studied engineering at the Higher Technical College in Steyr, Austria; after speaking with classmates who had returned from the U.S., he chose to immigrate to America in 1958; and

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WHEREAS, Willy Goellner began working for Ingersoll Manufacturing Tools in Rockford in 1960; he worked at

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1 Ingersoll for six years before leaving to start his own
2 business; and

3 WHEREAS, Willy Goellner established his own company,
4 Advanced Machine and Engineering (AME), in 1966; the company
5 started in a 1,000-square-foot office space in Loves Park but
6 quickly relocated to a larger facility in Rockford; and

7 WHEREAS, AME initially specialized in design and
8 engineering services for the machine tool and assembly
9 industries but later shifted focus to the engineering and
10 manufacturing of machine tools and components for a variety of
11 industries; and

12 WHEREAS, Willy Goellner transformed AME from a small
13 business to a global corporation; under his leadership, the
14 company has become a leading manufacturer of high-precision
15 parts for major industries from aerospace to health care; and

16 WHEREAS, AME partnered with German company Hennig, Inc. in
17 1977 and acquired the company in 1999, partnering with and
18 incorporating the American company Advanced Boring; and

19 WHEREAS, Willy Goellner mentors the next generation of
20 industrial workers through his apprenticeship and
21 international internship programs; his students focus on the

1 design and build of industrial machinery, specifically carbide
2 saws; and

3 WHEREAS, Willy Goellner authored an autobiography, Against
4 All Odds From There to Here, which tells the story of his life
5 and survival at the end of World War II, the terrible
6 experiences he faced in the years after, and his wife's
7 struggle with ALS; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite experiencing extreme hardship in his
9 youth, Willy Goellner demonstrates the drive and determination
10 that exemplify the American dream; he came to this country as a
11 young immigrant seeking a better life and now owns a
12 corporation that operates globally, and he continues to share
13 his success with others by employing hundreds of employees,
14 mentoring young industry professionals, and donating to a
15 variety of charities and non-profits; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Willy Goellner for his more than five decades
19 of success and innovation in manufacturing, and we recognize
20 the positive impact he has made by employing hundreds of local
21 workers and mentoring the next generation of thought leaders
22 in the industrial sector; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Willy Goellner and his family as a symbol of our
3 respect and esteem.