



HR0852

LRB103 41101 MST 74318 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Skyview Drive-In in
4 Belleville on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, On July 8, 1949, the Skyview Drive-In opened as
6 part of the Bloomer family chain of theaters (BAC Theatres)
7 with the film On Our Merry Way; the drive-in accommodated 900
8 cars and had 200 seats for walk-in patrons; admission was 60
9 cents; in addition to movies, the drive-in offered a
10 playground with pony rides, miniature train rides, and a small
11 Ferris wheel; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1953, with the advent of Cinemascope, wings
13 were added to the side of the screen to accommodate the wider
14 picture; in the spring of 1955, the 60-foot screen and the
15 playground were damaged by a tornado; as a replacement, a
16 115-foot screen was installed, which was supposedly the
17 largest in the Midwest at that time; in 1981, another storm
18 damaged the 115-foot screen, and it was replaced by a somewhat
19 smaller one; a second screen was built not long afterward,
20 making the drive-in a twin; for more than 60 years, employees
21 were trained to project movies on the big screen; in 1995, a
22 radio sound system was installed, and the drive-in became
23 digital in 2013; and

1 WHEREAS, The Skyview Drive-In's sign is one of the most
2 iconic movie marquees in the country; designed by Kirn Signs,
3 the rocket ship marquee appeared in 1950; it was damaged by a
4 storm in 1955; in the early 1980s, the drive-in turned off the
5 function that made the sign flash, due to a sign ordinance in
6 Belleville that outlawed flashing signs; since then, the
7 drive-in has kept the lights off; and

8 WHEREAS, The Skyview Drive-In is one of the two drive-ins
9 built by the Bloomer family and is the only remaining drive-in
10 in operation in the St. Louis region; today, it is owned by
11 Steve Bloomer; the first screen can host 440 vehicles, and the
12 second screen can host 190 vehicles; the drive-in's season
13 runs from April through November; and

14 WHEREAS, In May of 2024, the Skyview Drive-In was honored
15 as the number one drive-in theater in the U.S. by USA Today;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate the Skyview Drive-In in Belleville on the
20 occasion of its 75th anniversary, and we wish them many more
21 successful years; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Steve Bloomer as an expression of our esteem and
3 respect.