



HR0902

LRB103 42682 MST 75918 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Woodlawn Farm on the  
4 occasion of its 200th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, Woodlawn Farm was established in 1824 by the  
6 Huffaker family, and the family home was built in 1839 and  
7 1840; and

8 WHEREAS, Woodlawn Farm earned its historical significance  
9 from the patriarch of the family, Michael Huffaker, whose  
10 family originated from Germany, where he was one of nine  
11 children; and

12 WHEREAS, Michael Huffaker's family moved to Pennsylvania  
13 and then Virginia before settling in Kentucky; and

14 WHEREAS, Michael Huffaker and his wife, Jane, moved from  
15 Kentucky to Illinois, where they settled on 160 acres of land  
16 outside of what is now Jacksonville; and

17 WHEREAS, Michael Huffaker and Jane had seven children,  
18 before she died in childbirth; and

19 WHEREAS, Michael Huffaker later remarried a woman also

1 named Jane, and they had 10 more children; and

2 WHEREAS, Michael Huffaker was born to a religious family,  
3 and his second wife was raised in a community full of  
4 abolitionists; and

5 WHEREAS, The Huffaker home was used as a hiding spot for  
6 escaped slaves fleeing to the north, as many religious leaders  
7 and abolitionists were committed to helping freedom seekers;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Woodlawn Farm was purchased in 2003 by the  
10 Underground Railroad Committee of the Morgan County Illinois  
11 Historical Society to serve as a living history museum and  
12 joined the National Register of Historic Farms in 2007; and

13 WHEREAS, Woodlawn Farm turned 200 in April of 2024, and  
14 the Underground Railroad Committee celebrated the farm's  
15 bicentennial celebration with activities, tours, woodworking,  
16 pottery, and butter-making; and

17 WHEREAS, Woodlawn Farm is available for tours, and  
18 donations go to the renovation, restoration, and upkeep of the  
19 house; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we congratulate Woodlawn Farm, founded by the Huffaker family,  
3 on its 200th anniversary; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the Underground Railroad Committee of the Morgan  
6 County Illinois Historical Society.