



SR0976

LRB103 40532 MST 73036 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Bodo Gsedl, born in Taufkirchen (Vils), Germany, attended West Chicago Community High School as an AFS exchange student and is a proud graduate; during one of his visits to West Chicago, he brought his twin brother, Uwe, who fell in love with a woman, married her, and settled in West Chicago; and

7

8

WHEREAS, When Taufkirchen (Vils) was exploring a sister city relationship, Bodo Gsedl suggested West Chicago; an exploratory visit was made, and the two cities made a proclamation declaring the relationship in 1999; and

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, A sister city or a twin town relationship is a form of legal or social agreement between two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial ties; and

13

14

15

16

WHEREAS, In 1999, a group of West Chicagoans traveled to Taufkirchen, Germany to sign the official partnership papers to become sister cities; Nancy Smith, City Clerk of West Chicago, signed on behalf of the City of West Chicago, and Franz Hofstetter, Burgermeister of Taufkirchen, signed on behalf of the municipality of Taufkirchen; and

17

18

19

20

21

1           WHEREAS, Over the past 25 years, there have been over 20  
2 exchanges of visitors between the two cities, introducing  
3 participants to the customs of each country and exploring  
4 German and American cultures, including musical and dance  
5 groups that have performed in the other country; and

6           WHEREAS, Visitors are hosted in family homes in each  
7 community, honoring the social agreement set forth in 1999;  
8 the families participate in welcome dinners, tourist  
9 attractions, and unique opportunities to visit facilities that  
10 are not open to the public; and

11           WHEREAS, In 2019, the West Chicago sister cities group  
12 celebrated the partnership's 20th anniversary with a visit to  
13 Taufkirchen, Germany, which included the 20th anniversary  
14 celebration dinner with the signing of a proclamation and an  
15 exchange of gifts; and

16           WHEREAS, West Chicago and Taufkirchen share a similar  
17 focus on enriching regional goods and businesses through  
18 annual festivals and markets; Blooming Fest is DuPage County's  
19 official welcoming committee of spring; it is held in West  
20 Chicago's downtown and features one of the region's largest  
21 plant sales, live music, and a variety of craft and food  
22 vendors; in Taufkirchen, the Adlberger Market transforms the  
23 town center into a merchant and entertainment mile with

1 open-air concerts, and all kinds of delicacies are offered by  
2 local hosts and butchers; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 15, 2024  
5 as Sister City Partnership Day in the State of Illinois in  
6 honor of the 25th anniversary of the West Chicago and  
7 Taufkirchen sister city relationship; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of the resolution be  
9 presented to the mayor of West Chicago as a symbol of our  
10 respect and esteem.