

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Wagner Companies, Wagner Printing Company,
3 InfoComm Print, and Jade Creative, are celebrating their
4 150-year anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, Founded in 1853, the Wagner Companies are the
6 oldest family owned and operated printing company in the
7 United States; the oldest family owned and operated business
8 in the City of Chicago; and the third oldest family firm in
9 the State of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, For six generations, the Wagner family has
11 epitomized American ingenuity; the first-generation of
12 Wagners established a German language newspaper, the
13 Deutscher Anzeiger, published continuously from 1853 to 1917,
14 which became the most prominent and long-lived newspaper of
15 its time; the Deutscher Anzeiger covered the Lincoln Douglas
16 Debates held in 1858; and

17 WHEREAS, When anti-German war sentiment at the beginning
18 of World War I resulted in the closing of the Deutscher
19 Anzeiger, the Wagners became successful commercial printers;
20 the second-generation of Wagners built one on the first
21 buildings in northwestern Illinois to be powered by
22 electricity, which is still in operation today; and

23 WHEREAS, During World War II, when paper was rationed
24 except for military purposes, the third-generation of
25 Wagners, led by a woman, made a vital contribution to the war
26 effort; the print shop was transformed into an assembly line
27 where over one hundred women produced precision
28 micro-switches, which were used in virtually all of the
29 airplanes during World War II; and

30 WHEREAS, The fifth and sixth-generation of Wagners
31 expanded from Freeport into the Chicago and Rockford markets;

1 leaders in innovation and technology, they used their
2 printing expertise and dedication to craftsmanship to create
3 a full-service onestop digital and conventional print shop
4 where customers run their projects from concept to completion
5 in one location; specializing in information management, the
6 Wagner Companies can develop materials in print or web
7 format; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate the Wagner family and the Wagner Companies,
11 Wagner Printing Company, InfoComm Print, and Jade Creative,
12 on the celebration of their 150th anniversary; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the Wagner family as an expression of our
16 respect and esteem.