



HR1165

LRB097 21955 GRL 70674 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the residents of
4 Farmer City as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the
5 city's founding; and

6 WHEREAS, In the early 1800s, central Illinois was an
7 unbroken wilderness, inhabited by the Kickapoo and
8 Pottawatomie Indians; occasionally, traders and adventurers
9 traveled through the area; in the 1830s, pioneer families from
10 the east and south began to arrive in the area, building cabins
11 in the shelter of the timber groves along Salt Creek in Santa
12 Anna Township; and

13 WHEREAS, More settlers came and pioneers began to venture
14 out onto the prairie north of the timber; on January 28, 1837,
15 this prairie was platted and named Mt. Pleasant and a mail
16 route was soon established; there was already a town in
17 Illinois named Mt. Pleasant, so, in 1869, Jacob Swigart, a
18 local member of the Illinois legislature, traveled to
19 Springfield and introduced a bill into the Assembly proposing
20 that Mt. Pleasant's name be changed to Farmer City; and

21 WHEREAS, Farmer City was a community of farmers, therefore
22 the name was deemed very appropriate; Farmer City prospered as

1 2 railroads traveled through the community; when the Civil War
2 started, 250 brave men within a 6-mile radius of Farmer City
3 enlisted and served their country; 37 did not return, taking a
4 heavy toll on local families and leaving a huge impact; and

5 WHEREAS, Two devastating fires in 1879 and 1894 burned down
6 much of the business district, but the community rebuilt and
7 the town continued to grow and prosper; in the early 1900s, the
8 first power plant was built, streets were brick-paved, a water
9 tower was built, and modern utilities became available; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois Route 39 (now, Route 150) and Route 48
11 (now, Route 54) were built through Farmer City, enabling
12 citizens to travel with ease; Interstate 74 was opened in 1974,
13 making travel even easier, with the Farm Land Rest Area opening
14 just west of Farmer City in 1993; and

15 WHEREAS, Farmer City still has an electric plant, and now
16 has an Ambulance District; a new high school was built in the
17 year 2000; and

18 WHEREAS, Farmer City will have a Quartoseptcentennial
19 175th Birthday Celebration from June 30 to July 8, 2012; school
20 reunions, parades, farm and antique displays, music, food, and
21 other entertainment are planned; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the residents of Farmer City on this momentous
4 occasion; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the residents of Farmer City as a symbol of our
7 respect and esteem.