



HR0809

LRB098 19607 MST 54801 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the Vandalia  
4 Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of  
5 its founding; and

6           WHEREAS, The Vandalia Chamber of Commerce was incorporated  
7 on April 3, 1914 in the City of Vandalia and will have served  
8 the community for an entire century on April 3, 2014; and

9           WHEREAS, The mission of the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce is  
10 to serve its member businesses by encouraging and supporting  
11 business growth, economic development, tourism, and networking  
12 opportunities; and

13           WHEREAS, In advancing the interests of business  
14 professionals and service organizations in the area, the  
15 Vandalia Chamber of Commerce serves a vital role in the  
16 development and promotion of economic activity in Vandalia,  
17 enhancing the quality of life of its residents; and

18           WHEREAS, The organization's founding officers included  
19 President Charles Evans, Vice-President Herbert Sonnemann, and  
20 Secretary-Treasurer N.C. Gochenour; and

1           WHEREAS, The founding members included: Mayor C.A. Janett,  
2           Judge George T. Turner, J.V. Waddell, Joseph C. Burtschi, Ira  
3           D. Lakin, P.T. Denny, J.S. Ritter, Nathan Levin, H.H.  
4           Sonnemann, J.S. Carp, George A. Kurtz, N.C. Gochenour and C.A.  
5           Evans; and

6           WHEREAS, In its nascent years, the Vandalia Chamber of  
7           Commerce supported the community in its classic roles such as  
8           the recruitment of business and industry to Vandalia, but the  
9           it served a larger role, being involved in nearly every civic  
10          and social function in the town; and

11          WHEREAS, In 1922, the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce acquired  
12          a new building, suitable for offices, and a public library for  
13          Vandalia; and

14          WHEREAS, The Vandalia Chamber Commerce headed a drive to  
15          build a new railroad depot in Vandalia and found success,  
16          providing for service on the Illinois Central and Pennsylvania  
17          railroads in 1924; and

18          WHEREAS, The Vandalia Chamber of Commerce raised the  
19          necessary funds for the erection of Mark Greer Hospital in 1925  
20          and another local hospital in 1955; and

21          WHEREAS, The Vandalia Chamber of Commerce has attracted and

1 facilitated the development of numerous prominent businesses  
2 in the past, including: the Hart-Carter Company in 1953, the  
3 Crane Packing Company in 1955, the United Wood Heel Company in  
4 1961, and the Benner Nawman Company in 1968; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1978, Marie Bristow became the first woman to  
6 serve as president of the organization; and

7 WHEREAS, The Vandalia Chamber of Commerce remains very  
8 active to this day, sustained by approximately 200 member  
9 businesses; and

10 WHEREAS, Current officers of the Vandalia Chamber of  
11 Commerce include: President Greg Starnes of Fayette County  
12 Hospital, Vice-President Brock Brannon of FNB/ Investment  
13 Centers of America, Secretary John Ashdown of Family YMCA of  
14 Fayette County, Treasurer Todd Stapleton of WPMB/WKRV Radio and  
15 past President Ben Timmermann; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce be commemorated for achieving  
19 the epic milestone of a century of business and public service;  
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce as an expression  
2 of our esteem and respect.