



HR0870

LRB098 20364 MST 55885 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the City of  
4 Belleville as it celebrates the 200th anniversary of its  
5 founding in 2014; and

6           WHEREAS, Belleville was the center of the first important  
7 German settlement in the State of Illinois; the influence of  
8 Koerner, Hilgard, Bunsen, Abend, and Engleman was felt in law,  
9 journalism, education, science, and industry; Bornman, Braun,  
10 Gundlach, Eimer, Knoebel, and Brosius left similar impressions  
11 on the mechanical industry; by 1870, Belleville was the  
12 second-largest producer of manufactured goods in the State,  
13 tied with Peoria and second only to Chicago; it was the leading  
14 cigar revenue district of Southern Illinois, and the company  
15 which manufactures "Jelly Belly" candy was founded by 2 German  
16 candy makers in 1968; Belleville is credited with having the  
17 first electric trolley in the State; and

18           WHEREAS, Following the Civil War, Belleville's industry  
19 gravitated towards stove casting and it earned the moniker  
20 "Stove Capital of the World", and Belleville continues to this  
21 day to produce high-quality stoves and heating products; it was  
22 with the advent of steam-powered railroads that Belleville, a  
23 landlocked community, was pushed into the Industrial Era; and

1           WHEREAS, During the first 50 years of the Illinois  
2 territory and its subsequent statehood, Ninian Edwards, John  
3 Reynolds and William Bissell - all Belleville men - held the  
4 office of the Governor; William Kinney and Gustave Koerner held  
5 the office of the Lt. Governor and James Shields was a hero in  
6 the Mexican War; and

7           WHEREAS, The American Miners Association was founded in  
8 Belleville in 1861, the first attempt to form a national miners  
9 union; its coal provided energy and wealth to fuel a post-civil  
10 war industrial boom, providing jobs for union workers in the  
11 production of stoves, shoes, and cigars; and

12           WHEREAS, The celebration will culminate in an event  
13 extravaganza the weekend of September 19-21, 2014, covering 9  
14 blocks in downtown Belleville and including 3 days of music,  
15 food, drinks, craft vendors, and historical demonstrations,  
16 along with a Civil War reenactment and a vintage baseball  
17 tournament; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we congratulate the City of Belleville as it celebrates the  
21 200th anniversary of its founding; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the City of Belleville as an expression of our  
3 esteem and respect.