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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Sloan Valve Company, located in Franklin Park, on the occasion of its 110th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, In 1867, William Elvis Sloan, known as W.E., was born in Liberty, Missouri; his mother passed away when he was in the fourth grade, and so he started working on local construction sites to help support his family; and

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WHEREAS, By the time he was a teenager, W.E. Sloan was an experienced pipefitter with a curious mind and a strong work ethic; in his twenties, he moved to the growing metropolis of Chicago in search of new opportunities; and

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WHEREAS, W.E. Sloan was an inventor first and foremost, always looking for ways to improve the world around him; he focused on construction and plumbing; and

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WHEREAS, In 1906, W.E. Sloan patented an innovative plumbing fixture, the Flushometer, that forever changed the way public restrooms were constructed; and

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WHEREAS, In 1914, Weeghman Park, later named Wrigley Field,

1 was built using the flushometer, beginning a long relationship
2 between Sloan Valve Co. and the Chicago Cubs; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1915, Sloan Valve Co. was recognized for its
4 innovation and given the prestigious San Francisco Award in
5 Engineering; contractors around the world began seeing the
6 value of flushometers with sales increasing from \$44,000 in
7 1912, to \$385,000 in 1916; and

8 WHEREAS, On April 6, 1917, the United States joined the
9 fight in World War I; W.E. Sloan decided to make his products
10 with new materials, such as porcelain for handles, plastic for
11 internal parts, and cast iron to replace the brass used to
12 construct the body of the flush valve; and

13 WHEREAS, As a result of the boost to the economy when the
14 war ended, Sloan Valve Co. opened its first production plant on
15 Lake Street in Chicago; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1929, the stock market crashed beginning the
17 Great Depression; W.E. Sloan managed to keep the company
18 operating by cutting his salary in half and cashing in his life
19 insurance policy to keep his employees working; and

20 WHEREAS, There are stories of W.E. Sloan anonymously
21 sending supplies and food to his workers during the toughest

1 years of the depression; and

2 WHEREAS, At the beginning World War II, Sloan Valve Co.
3 played an important role in the war effort by supplying flush
4 valves to the United States Naval Fleet and military training
5 facilities; and

6 WHEREAS, The Sloan Valve Co. factory was retooled to
7 produce detonators and fuses for artillery shells; with the
8 majority of men off at war, the company hired women to work the
9 factory floor; and

10 WHEREAS, W.E. Sloan remained Chairman of the Board of Sloan
11 Valve Co. until his death at the age of 92; his grandson, Chuck
12 Allen, played an important role in keeping the company relevant
13 after his grandfather's death and after many of the original
14 company employees moved on; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1964, Sloan Valve Co. opened a new foundry in
16 Melrose Park, considered the most modern brass foundry of its
17 time; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1971, Sloan Valve Co. moved its center of
19 operations to Franklin Park, where it remains today; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1977, Chuck Allen was promoted to the office of

1 President; Sloan Valve Co. continued to grow throughout the
2 1980s; and

3 WHEREAS, Sloan Valve Co. has been committed to water
4 efficiency since its founding; the Water Efficiency Department
5 was opened in 2000; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2008, Chuck Allen was promoted to Executive
7 Chairman of the Board and his three sons, Kirk, Jim, and Graham
8 Allen, took over the office of the President; W.E. Sloan's
9 great-grandsons had been working for the company in various
10 capacities since they were teenagers, from sales reps to
11 sweeping the shop floor, they had done it all; and

12 WHEREAS, Running a family business has its unique
13 struggles; each generation must bring something new to the
14 company; Kirk, Jim, and Graham have helped Sloan Valve Co.
15 become a leader in green technology, building upon the idea
16 that water is our planet's most precious resource and should
17 not be squandered or polluted; and

18 WHEREAS, Sloan Valve Co. has won many awards for its
19 conservation efforts including a Green Power Leadership Award
20 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

21 WHEREAS, Sloan Valve Co. became the official Water

1 Efficiency Partner for the Chicago Cubs in 2015, and has been
2 given the chance to install all Sloan products during the
3 historic restoration and expansion of Wrigley Field as part of
4 the 1060 project; and

5 WHEREAS, The legendary ballpark, currently undergoing an
6 extensive restoration with architects, VOA Associates, is
7 being outfitted exclusively with Sloan faucets and
8 flushometers; the featured restroom, located 50 yards from the
9 main entrance on the third base line, is the largest public
10 restroom in Wrigley Field, designed for high traffic use on
11 game day; this is in addition to the other Sloan products in
12 all of the park's restrooms; and

13 WHEREAS, The relationship between Sloan Valve Co. and the
14 Chicago Cubs grew even stronger in 2015 when Sloan became a
15 Legacy Partner of the Chicago Cubs; the team's training field
16 in Mesa, Arizona was renamed Sloan Park, and has become the
17 perfect showcase for Sloan's newest and greenest products; and

18 WHEREAS, Sloan Valve Co. continues to build a global brand
19 synonymous with sustainability, energy conservation, and water
20 efficient products, with green innovations that include solar
21 powered technologies and all-in-one sink systems; it also
22 designs upscale commercial restrooms, with more stylish and
23 contemporary product options that are as beautiful as they are

1 sustainable; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 congratulate Sloan Valve Co. on its 110th Anniversary and wish
5 them continued success in creating quality products that
6 promote water conservation; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Sloan Valve Co. as a symbol of our esteem and
9 respect.