



HR0727

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Housing Authority of  
4 Joliet on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of its founding;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, On February 26, 1945, Mayor Arthur O. Jank  
7 submitted an official statement of finding of housing in the  
8 City of Joliet, indicating that there was a shortage of safe  
9 and sanitary dwelling accommodations available to persons of  
10 lower income; that statement of finding was included as part of  
11 Resolution No. 408, approved by the City of Joliet City Council  
12 on February 26, 1945; and

13           WHEREAS, On April 9, 1945, the State of Illinois Housing  
14 Board approved the establishment of the Housing Authority of  
15 Joliet; the Honorable Mayor Janke then recommended the  
16 appointment of 5 citizens as the first Commissioners of the  
17 Housing Authority of Joliet: John O. Holmes (Upholsterer),  
18 Albert H. Jackson (Editorial Department of the Chicago Times),  
19 Lee E. Coleman (Methodist Minister), William J. Downey  
20 (Business Representative of the Plumbers and Steamfitters),  
21 and Albert Felman (Boston Store Owner/Operator); and

22           WHEREAS, On December 12, 1945, the Housing Authority of

1 Joliet held its first Board Meeting at the American Legion  
2 Building for the purpose of organizing the Authority by  
3 adopting by-laws and a seal, electing officers, and taking such  
4 other action necessary to launch; on the same day, the Housing  
5 Authority of Joliet Board of Commissioners hired a temporary  
6 Executive Director, Harry W. Osman; the Housing Authority of  
7 Joliet immediately began planning for the development and  
8 construction of conventional low-income public housing within  
9 the City of Joliet; however, it was not until 1954 that the  
10 first housing development (Van Horne Homes) was constructed  
11 within the 300 block of South Water Street; the development  
12 consisted of 46 row homes varying in size from 1 to 4 bedroom  
13 units; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the years, the local community thrived and  
15 grew, as did its need for additional affordable housing; it is  
16 this growth that prompted the Housing Authority of Joliet to  
17 further develop additional properties and to seek out  
18 additional low-income housing programs to meet the  
19 communities' escalating housing needs; and

20 WHEREAS, Since that time, the Housing Authority of Joliet  
21 has constructed and operated 1,099 public housing program  
22 rental units which have provided housing assistance to  
23 families, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities; and

1           WHEREAS, Leading the Housing Authority of Joliet into the  
2 21st century is the Chief Executive Officer, Michael Simelton,  
3 who continues the Authority's history of promoting inclusive  
4 communities and quality affordable homes for all and  
5 strengthening the housing market to bolster the economy and  
6 protect consumers; and

7           WHEREAS, Functioning for 70 years, the Housing Authority of  
8 Joliet has been at the forefront and steadfastly committed to  
9 bringing exceptional housing services and programs to the  
10 people of the City of Joliet and surrounding Will County  
11 communities; therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 congratulate the Housing Authority of Joliet on its 70th  
15 Anniversary, and we wish them many more successful years; and  
16 be it further

17           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to the Housing Authority of Joliet as an expression  
19 of our esteem and respect.