



HR0210

LRB104 12764 MST 23991 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of
4 Bourbonnais on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, Between 1829-1832, the settlement Bourbonnais
6 Grove was founded by Francois Bourbonnais Sr., a
7 French-Canadian fur trader who lived north of Bourbonnais
8 Creek and traded with the Potawatomi people, and in 1834,
9 French-Canadian fur trader Noel LeVasseur established a
10 trading post in the settlement, which became a focal point for
11 the community; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1853, the Illinois State Legislature formed
13 Kankakee County out of the north part of Iroquois County and
14 the south part of Will County, which included the north and
15 south banks of the Kankakee River, and Bourbonnais Grove
16 became a part of Kankakee County; and

17 WHEREAS, The village grew as an agricultural community and
18 was shaped by its Catholic traditions; in 1858, the Maternity
19 of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church was built by the residents
20 and served as a cultural cornerstone for the community; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1875, Bourbonnais Grove was incorporated as

1 the Village of Bourbonnais, with George R. LeTourneau as its
2 first mayor; and

3 WHEREAS, St. Viator College for boys was founded as an
4 academy for boys in 1865 and received a university charter
5 from the State of Illinois in 1874; and

6 WHEREAS, The Illinois State Legislature passed a
7 resolution designating a portion of Interstate 57, including
8 Bourbonnais, as the French-Canadian Heritage Corridor in 2015;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Today, Bourbonnais celebrates its rich history
11 while serving as a hub for education and culture and will
12 commemorate its sesquicentennial with special events for
13 residents throughout the year, including the Soiree do
14 Bourbonnais, which will take place on May 17, 2025; therefore,
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate the Village of Bourbonnais on the occasion of
19 its 150th anniversary; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the Village of Bourbonnais as an expression of

1 our respect and esteem for 150 vibrant years.