



HR0345

LRB104 13695 MST 26375 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Illinois Road Contractors
4 on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, The Jacksonville-based Illinois Road Contractors
6 is a family-owned business that began in 1925; and

7 WHEREAS, It is rare to find family companies that survive
8 the test of time; less than 3% of family-owned businesses
9 manage to retain that business into a fourth generation of
10 management; and

11 WHEREAS, Rudy Davidsmeyer started a company in 1925 that
12 is still in his family today; in the company's earliest years,
13 he saw his trucks vandalized by intimidated competitors; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1925, the Davidsmeyer Oil Company was formed,
15 and it was the first operation of IRC, with Rudy Davidsmeyer
16 barely having fifteen cents in his pocket at the time; the
17 company sold fuel oil and road oils in both Springfield and
18 Jacksonville; and

19 WHEREAS, Rudy Davidsmeyer asked his brother, Paul
20 Davidsmeyer or P.J., to help him in business operations; this

1 was during a railroad strike, and Paul had been a fireman for
2 the railroad; working and surviving together during the
3 depression years, the crew, Rudy, and Paul became one big
4 family, which was the creation of the long-standing business
5 that is the IRC today; and

6 WHEREAS, In the late 1930s, Rudy Davidsmeyer developed a
7 process to spread oil followed by rock chips, thus blotting
8 the oil; some call the process oil and chip and some call it
9 Sealcoat; and

10 WHEREAS, The Davidsmeyer Oil Company has had several name
11 changes over the years; it became Illinois Road Builders in
12 the 1930s, Illinois Road Contractors, Inc. was incorporated in
13 1949, and now, it is sometimes known as The IRC Group with
14 several wholly-owned subsidiaries and affiliates; and

15 WHEREAS, One job that established that the Davidsmeyer
16 Company was served by hard, fearless workers was the turnpike
17 construction across Kansas; this operation established the
18 company both financially and reputably while also expanding
19 Illinois Road Builders's area of work to Kansas, Missouri, and
20 Iowa; and

21 WHEREAS, Half of the core crew was drafted for the Second
22 World War effort; there was a shortage of labor, and the

1 specified type of oil needed was used by the government for
2 cargo ships; IRC still continued to expand, bidding jobs
3 outside of Morgan County, as well as into states from Colorado
4 to Ohio; and

5 WHEREAS, During the late 1940s, trailer transports
6 replaced tank cars, which simplified operations; Rudy
7 Davidsmeyer was a part of the original group of road-oil
8 contractors that formed a state association; they wanted to
9 call themselves the Illinois Road Builders Association; Rudy
10 gave them permission to use the name and reincorporated his
11 company as Illinois Road Contractors, Inc; the Illinois Road
12 Builders Association was the forerunner of the Illinois
13 Asphalt Pavement Association; in 1952, Rudy purchased a duck
14 hunting haven for his family, yet he soon turned it into a
15 retreat for IRC employees and customers; and

16 WHEREAS, With a reputation for honesty fairness, quality
17 equipment, and workmanship, IRC has established itself as the
18 leading sealcoat contractor in Illinois today; control of the
19 company changed hands suddenly when Rudy Davidsmeyer was
20 killed in 1960; only three weeks later, P.J. Davidsmeyer had a
21 heart attack and died while driving, leaving Rudy's son, J.R.,
22 and P.J.'s son, Bill, with management of the company; and

23 WHEREAS, J.R. Davidsmeyer asked his brother, Paul

1 Davidsmeyer, if he would consider joining the Illinois Road
2 Contractors Co.; Paul left his business, the Illinois Road
3 Equipment Company in Springfield, to join his brother, J.R.,
4 and his cousin, Bill; and

5 WHEREAS, Meredosia Terminal was an outgrowth of the OPEC
6 oil embargo; in 1971, IRC built the state-of-the-art Meredosia
7 Terminal to store asphalt and road materials to serve
8 contractors in a wide area; IDOT did not use blended product at
9 the time but were impressed with MT designs and capabilities;
10 Meredosia Terminal started shipping asphalt in 1972 and is
11 unique in the large numbers of asphalt and emulsion grades it
12 can produce; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, Meredosia Terminal ships asphalt,
14 emulsion, and liquid and dry fertilizer; the terminal also
15 manufactures food grade aqua ammonia used by companies
16 throughout Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa; its success brought
17 about another terminal that they built in 1980, which is
18 located near Utica for supply demand; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1979, State Material Service (SMS) was created
20 and currently operates over 40 asphalt delivery trailers;
21 Equipment Associates Inc. (EA), another trucking division, was
22 insured specifically to provide hauling for anhydrous and
23 fuel; in 1985, Asphalt Stone Company (ASC) was begun for

1 profiling new ways to repair roads, such as the process of
2 Rotomilling; in 1991, IRC Driveways, the Sealcoat business
3 that helped found the enterprise, had expanded into a second
4 division dedicated to providing driveways, parking lots, and
5 private lanes; in 2004, Tarps Manufacturing, Inc. was started,
6 which makes specialized tarps for trucking, grain pile covers,
7 containment, and fireproof needs; the company provided tarps
8 for the Brooklyn Bridge project that withstood the massive
9 Hurricane Sandy; and

10 WHEREAS, When "the Key 3" retired, the next generation,
11 known as "the Junior 5", took the helm; Devon initially began
12 as the president of Illinois Road Contractors, Inc. in 1993
13 with Rick, Jim, Jeff, and John as vice presidents; the board
14 was comprised of these new officers and the Key 3; and

15 WHEREAS, Each corporation was established with a specific
16 board and president; Devon serves as a board member for each of
17 those divisions along with key managers serving as vice
18 presidents; Rick was named president of Meredosia Terminal and
19 Utica; Jim is president of Asphalt Stone Company; Jeff was
20 established as president of IRC, Inc.; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, IRC continues the tradition of family in
22 the business as the Generation 4 members become leaders in the
23 company; C.D., the son of Devon, and Ryan and Michael, the sons

1 of Rick, are stepping up to the challenge of running the family
2 business; and

3 WHEREAS, Rick Davidsmeyer passed away in 2015; Ryan
4 Davidsmeyer, Rick's oldest son, assumed the role of president
5 and manager of the Meredosia Terminal; John Davidsmeyer passed
6 away in 2017; he was serving as safety coordinator at that time
7 and had run the trucking division for many years before that;
8 Michael Davidsmeyer serves in driveway sales; Bill Davidsmeyer
9 passed away in 2023; JR Davidsmeyer passed away in 2024; and

10 WHEREAS, This fourth generation proudly leads IRC into the
11 next decade preparing for the 100th anniversary; Illinois Road
12 Contractors has been and continues to be a family business
13 that is focused on quality, service, and bold moves; and

14 WHEREAS, The key philosophies of the company have remained
15 intact from the very beginning: take pride in your work,
16 provide a great place for employees to work, be the best in the
17 business for quality and service, and control enough equipment
18 to satisfy customer needs for service; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate the Illinois Road Contractors and the
22 Davidsmeyer family on 100 years of hard-worked service and

1 innovation in manufacturing and building many of the roadways
2 in Illinois and beyond and for remaining a family business for
3 four generations and counting; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 presented to the Illinois Road Contractors and the Davidsmeyer
6 family as an expression of our respect and esteem for a vibrant
7 100 years and as a leading example of hard work, innovation,
8 and, most importantly, family values.