



HR0376

LRB104 13633 ECR 26267 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The dedicated postal workers of the United States  
3 Postal Service (USPS) provide a vital service to the American  
4 public, ensuring the safe and efficient passage of the mail in  
5 order to connect individuals, communities, and businesses,  
6 pursuant to their constitutionally mandated duty; and

7 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin was appointed to serve as the  
8 first Postmaster General in what is now the United States by  
9 the Continental Congress in 1775; since then, the history of  
10 the USPS has been interwoven with that of the country it  
11 serves; and

12 WHEREAS, For the first decades of the postal service,  
13 postage paid only for the delivery of mail from one post office  
14 to another, but in response to the needs and wants of Americans  
15 during the Civil War, the postal service launched free  
16 delivery in cities under the guidance of Postmaster General  
17 Montgomery Blair in 1863; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 1890s, Postmaster General John Wanamaker  
19 began campaigning to extend free delivery to rural  
20 communities, promoting rural free delivery as a way to help  
21 businesses expand their markets, ensure residents could  
22 receive vital and important information from newspapers, and

1 help ease isolation and connect communities; and

2 WHEREAS, Reflecting the march of the United States towards  
3 freedom and equality for all Americans, the postal service has  
4 been home to many groundbreaking public servants, including  
5 Mary Katherine Goddard, the first known woman postmaster in  
6 what would become the United States and the first woman to be a  
7 manager in the federal government, William Cooper Nell, an  
8 abolitionist and civil rights champion who became the first  
9 known Black American civilian employee of the federal  
10 government, and William H. Carney, the first African American  
11 to earn the Medal of Honor; and

12 WHEREAS, Over 10% of the USPS workforce, making up more  
13 than 72,000 Americans, are military veterans, which is nearly  
14 twice as high as the representation of veterans in other  
15 civilian fields; and

16 WHEREAS, The USPS has regularly demonstrated the use of  
17 technology and innovation in public service, including opening  
18 the world's first public telegraph line in 1845, testing the  
19 first electric vehicle for mail delivery in 1899, and helping  
20 give birth to the commercial aviation industry by proving the  
21 viability of commercial flight through its airmail service in  
22 1918; and

1       WHEREAS, Musician John Prine, actor Rock Hudson, and  
2       animator and media mogul Walt Disney all delivered mail or  
3       worked at post offices in Illinois before becoming successful  
4       professionals in artistic fields; and

5       WHEREAS, Through the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee,  
6       the USPS helps support American artists by commissioning stamp  
7       designs to recognize significant moments and people in  
8       American history, science, technology, art, education, sports,  
9       and other areas of public interest; and

10       WHEREAS, Postal workers, including carriers, distribution  
11       agents, mail clerks, truck drivers, and support staff, are  
12       dedicated public servants who process and deliver letters  
13       between family members, packages for service members overseas,  
14       prescriptions for seniors, election mail, correspondence and  
15       parcels between businesses, and more; therefore, 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 commend the employees of the United States Postal Service  
19       (USPS) for their outstanding service to the communities of the  
20       United States and for their hard work, dedication, and  
21       commitment to delivering for America; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the leadership of the USPS as a symbol of our  
2 respect and esteem.