



HR0396

LRB104 13861 ECR 26694 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Oswald's Pharmacy on the occasion of its 150th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, Oswald's Pharmacy, a sixth-generation, family-owned business located in Naperville, was opened by proprietors Strayer & Cassem in 1875; it is the second-oldest business in Naperville and the oldest continually owned family pharmacy in Illinois; in 1883, the pharmacy was sold to employee William Wallace Wickel, who transformed it into a cornerstone of Naperville; and

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WHEREAS, William Wickel's son-in-law, Louis Oswald, took ownership in 1915, helping guide Oswald's Pharmacy through the Great Depression and Prohibition; he introduced a soda fountain in 1917, transforming the pharmacy into a hub for social activity; and

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WHEREAS, Louis Oswald's son-in-law, Harold Kester, gained ownership in 1956, doubling the size of Oswald's Pharmacy; in response to the rise of chain drugstores, he diversified the store, enhancing the cosmetics and beauty department to meet the community's preferences; and

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1 WHEREAS, Harold Kester's son-in-law, Robert Anderson,
2 became the proprietor of Oswald's Pharmacy in 1977, extending
3 store hours to stay competitive with chain stores; he also
4 embraced technological innovations, making it the first
5 pharmacy in Naperville to computerize; and

6 WHEREAS, Robert Anderson's children, including Bill
7 Anderson, took over Oswald's Pharmacy in 1991, expanding the
8 gift and toy selections in response to market shifts; the
9 pharmacy was relocated to Naperville Plaza to serve a growing
10 customer base in 2004; Bill Anderson became the sole
11 proprietor in 2012, and he expanded the store to include 5,000
12 square feet of medical equipment in 2015; and

13 WHEREAS, Bill Anderson's son, Alex Anderson, assumed
14 ownership of Oswald's Pharmacy in 2021, focusing on digital
15 marketing, maintaining community engagement, and working to
16 continue providing personalized customer experiences; he
17 expanded the pharmacy into Geneva with the acquisition of
18 Riley's Medical Equipment & Supplies in 2023, extending the
19 pharmacy's legacy of care; and

20 WHEREAS, Oswald's Pharmacy is a full-service pharmacy that
21 also sells gifts, toys, games, puzzles, and health and beauty
22 items, and the store is home to one of Chicagoland's largest
23 medical equipment showrooms; and

1 WHEREAS, Oswald's Pharmacy has earned a reputation of care
2 and excellence, offering whatever a person may need, or never
3 even knew they needed, and catering to all ages; therefore, be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate the employees, executives, and leadership of
8 Oswald's Pharmacy on the occasion of its sesquicentennial
9 anniversary, and we commend their continued commitment to
10 supporting and enriching Naperville's community with quality
11 care and medical equipment; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Oswald's Pharmacy as a symbol of our esteem and
14 respect.