



HR0485

LRB104 15547 LAW 28712 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Metropolitan Airport
4 Authority of Peoria (MAAP) on the occasion of its 75th
5 anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, Peoria's ties to aviation began before the city
7 had an official airport; in the summer of 1910, the Wright
8 brothers sent one of their instructors to Peoria for an
9 exhibition flight; a year later, the city was one of the stops
10 for Cal Rogers, the first pilot to successfully complete a
11 transcontinental flight across the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Peoria was also visited by Charles Lindberg, who
13 made numerous stops as he flew the St. Louis to Chicago airmail
14 route, at a time when the city had no formal airport,
15 possessing only a small building and a grass strip in an area
16 where the Shoppes at Grand Prairie is located today; and

17 WHEREAS, On May 19, 1932, Peorians officially voted to
18 create an airport that would be situated on 195 acres, which
19 was purchased by 261 Peoria businessmen, establishing Peoria
20 Airport, Inc., an airport with only four shale runways; and

21 WHEREAS, The Peoria Airport was under the purview of the

1 Peoria Park District from 1937 until the formation of MAAP in
2 1950, which still owns and operates both Peoria International
3 Airport and Mt. Hawley Auxiliary Airport today; and

4 WHEREAS, On October 10, 2008, MAAP dedicated the Greater
5 Peoria Regional Airport as the General Wayne A. Downing Peoria
6 International Airport after Gen. Wayne A. Downing, a resident
7 of Peoria and a retired, four-star general of the United
8 States Army; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2016, MAAP dedicated a new two-story addition
10 at Peoria International Airport in honor of former
11 Transportation Secretary and Congressman Ray LaHood, with the
12 upper level of the building housing airline gates and the
13 lower level being occupied by U.S. Customs and Border
14 Protection; and

15 WHEREAS, MAAP, in addition to Peoria International
16 Airport's buildings and grounds changing over the years, has
17 seen an increase in the airport's passenger counts, going from
18 welcoming 50,000 passengers enplaning and deplaning per year
19 in the late 1950s to setting an all-time record high of 689,416
20 passengers in 2019; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, MAAP offers 12 nonstop destinations
22 through three airlines at Peoria International Airport, and

1 the airport provides the longest runway in Illinois outside of
2 Chicago and houses the only 24-hour FAA control tower outside
3 of Chicago, all while only employing 26 full-time staff; and

4 WHEREAS, MAAP also owns and maintains more than 3,500
5 acres while serving many tenants, including private hangars,
6 fixed base operators (FBOs), and cargo facilities, as well as
7 providing access to the Army and Air National Guards; and

8 WHEREAS, MAAP will celebrate its 75th anniversary on
9 October 22, 2025; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate the Metropolitan Airport Authority of Peoria
13 (MAAP) on achieving its 75th anniversary; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to Gene Olson, Director of Airports, and the MAAP
16 Board of Commissioners as an expression of our esteem and
17 respect.