



HR0733

LRB104 21176 ECR 35595 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Established in 1926, U.S. Route 66 has long  
3 captured the imagination of travelers around the world,  
4 stretching nearly 2,500 miles and linking Chicago to the coast  
5 of California; and

6           WHEREAS, This historic highway has connected rural  
7 communities, neonlit motels and diners, and countless dreams  
8 across eight states for the last 100 years, becoming a symbol  
9 of American mobility, adventure, and cultural heritage; and

10           WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has always held the distinct  
11 honor of serving as the official starting point of Route 66,  
12 marking the beginning of one of America's most storied  
13 journeys; and

14           WHEREAS, When Route 66 was first designated in 1926, the  
15 road began in Cicero at the intersection of 48th Avenue and  
16 Ogden Avenue; and

17           WHEREAS, Route 66's starting point was then moved to the  
18 intersection of Jackson Boulevard and Michigan Avenue in the  
19 early 1930s; and

20           WHEREAS, Route 66's starting point was moved once again to

1 the intersection of Adams Street and Michigan Avenue in 1955  
2 when Jackson Boulevard became a one-way street heading east;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Navy Pier stands as one of Chicago's most iconic  
5 and cherished landmarks, serving as a historic site, a  
6 community gathering place, and a welcoming gateway to the city  
7 known for its music, food, amusement rides, fireworks, public  
8 art, and sweeping views of Lake Michigan; and

9 WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Pier was publicly celebrated and  
10 formally recognized as the symbolic western terminus of Route  
11 66 in 2009, establishing it as the emotional and cultural  
12 finish line for generations of travelers who journeyed  
13 westward; and

14 WHEREAS, Establishing Navy Pier as the unofficial eastern  
15 terminus of Route 66 symbolically connects two of the nation's  
16 most beloved piers, creating a meaningful pier-to-pier bond  
17 that reinforces the cultural and historic significance of  
18 America's most iconic highway; and

19 WHEREAS, This pier-to-pier pairing enriches the narrative  
20 of Route 66 by linking the western dreams long sought from the  
21 Santa Monica Pier with the renewed sense of possibility found  
22 on the shores of Lake Michigan in the heart of Chicago, serving

1 as a tribute to the enduring legacy, imagination, and  
2 adventure of the road; and

3 WHEREAS, The dedication of a ceremonial Route 66  
4 starting-point sign is planned for March 25, 2026, coinciding  
5 with the 28th Annual Worldwide Toast to Harry Caray to be  
6 celebrated at Harry Caray's Tavern at Navy Pier; and

7 WHEREAS, The story of Harry Caray is deeply intertwined  
8 with the history and culture of Route 66 as he was raised in  
9 St. Louis, Missouri, where Route 66 ran through his  
10 neighborhood; and

11 WHEREAS, Harry Caray, then known as Harry Carabina,  
12 traveled Route 66 from St. Louis to Chicago's Wrigley Field to  
13 announce his very first baseball game on April 17, 1945, when  
14 the Chicago Cubs defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 3-2; and

15 WHEREAS, While working along Route 66 at radio station  
16 WCLS in Joliet, Harry Caray received the suggestion by the  
17 station manager to change his last name from "Carabina" to  
18 "Caray", a moment that helped shape the career of one of  
19 America's most iconic sportscasters; and

20 WHEREAS, Route 66 further inspired the famed  
21 Cubs-Cardinals rivalry, once known as the "Route 66 Rivalry",

1 further cementing the road's place in the cultural and  
2 athletic life of the Midwest; and

3 WHEREAS, Route 66 has long been celebrated as "The Mother  
4 Road" and "The Main Street of America", serving as a primary  
5 connection between the Great Lakes region and the Pacific  
6 Coast and supporting westward migration, commerce, and  
7 cultural exchange; and

8 WHEREAS, Extending Route 66's eastern terminus to Navy  
9 Pier serves as a symbolic extension that honors the legacy of  
10 the historic highway while inspiring future generations of  
11 travelers, historians, and dreamers to explore the spirit of  
12 discovery that has defined the road for the past century;  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we congratulate Navy Pier on being named the unofficial  
17 eastern terminus of U.S. Route 66 on March 25, 2026.