



HR0949

LRB104 22237 ECR 38564 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Vermilion County on its
4 Bicentennial anniversary and celebration during the 250th
5 anniversary of the United States of America; and

6 WHEREAS, Vermilion County was named after the Vermilion
7 River, which passes through the county into the Wabash River
8 in Indiana near Cayuga, with the river being named after the
9 color of the soil along its route; and

10 WHEREAS, Vermilion County was under the flag of France as
11 part of New France from 1682 to 1763; it was taken over by
12 Great Britain for 15 years after the French and Indian War, and
13 it became a part of the colonies after the Revolutionary War
14 when the area was surrendered to Virginia, becoming known as
15 the Illinois County of Virginia; later, the area became a part
16 of the Indiana Territory, then the Illinois Territory, and
17 finally the State of Illinois; Vermilion County was officially
18 created from a portion of Edgar County on January 18, 1826; and

19 WHEREAS, Vermilion County's saline springs attracted many
20 early settlers, including Joseph Barron, an interpreter of
21 Native American languages, who was present at the Vermilion
22 Salines as early as 1801; the production of salt from the

1 springs proved to be profitable when salt became less
2 expensive from 1822 to 1829; and

3 WHEREAS, Many settlers in Vermilion County came from
4 Kentucky, eastern Tennessee, Virginia, and western North
5 Carolina due to their opposition to slavery; some of these
6 settlers were members of the Religious Society of Friends,
7 also known as Quakers, and they founded the settlement of
8 Vermilion Grove in the southern part of the county,
9 establishing one of the county's first settlements and the
10 site of the county's second public school; and

11 WHEREAS, Farmers turned the rich, black soil of Vermilion
12 County to produce food and also raised cattle and hogs, and in
13 the mid nineteenth century, coal became the leading industry
14 in the county; and

15 WHEREAS, Vermilion County had many of its residents serve
16 in the Winnebago War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II,
17 the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, and the county has many
18 heroes who merit decorations for valor and bravery; and

19 WHEREAS, The Town of Westville in Vermilion County was
20 laid out by William P. and Elizabeth West in May 1873, and by
21 1885, the town was thriving after Mike Kelly started several
22 coal mines in the area; this later led to the Chicago and

1 Eastern Illinois Rail line running through Westville, and a
2 now memorialized train depot was built where passengers would
3 purchase their tickets and coal miners would wait for their
4 trains; and

5 WHEREAS, Westville will be having a Freedom Celebration
6 from June 8 through June 14, 2026, which will include
7 activities and events at the Westville American Legion, such
8 as a patriotic home decorating contest and a celebration of
9 Latoz Hardware's 80th anniversary; the Westville Depot and
10 Historical Museum will be having an open house on June 12 and
11 13, and June 14 will close the events with a variety of
12 activities, including a patriotic golf cart parade, a vendor's
13 fair, a flea market at St. Mary's Parish grounds, and a vintage
14 baseball game at Youhas Field; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Vermilion County on its Bicentennial
18 anniversary and celebration during the 250th anniversary of
19 the United States of America, and we commend all of the
20 contributions by its leaders and families who have impacted
21 the health of their community; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
23 presented to the organizer of Westville's Freedom Celebration

1 and a representative of the Westville Depot and Historical
2 Museum as an expression of our esteem and respect.