



HR0980

LRB104 20744 LAW 34248 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the City of Galena on the
4 occasion of its bicentennial in tandem with America 250 in
5 2026; and

6 WHEREAS, Galena is a popular, small-town tourist
7 destination in the unglaciated area of Northwest Illinois near
8 the banks of the Mississippi River known for its picturesque
9 rolling hills and natural amenities, historic Main Street
10 filled with beautiful 19th century architecture, rich storied
11 past, and more; and

12 WHEREAS, Galena was established in 1826, adopting the name
13 Galena to honor the lead ore that brought prosperity and
14 growth to this historic Illinois town; and

15 WHEREAS, For a time, Galena was also home to former
16 President Ulysses S. Grant, whose family moved to the city in
17 1860, where they operated a leather goods store; and

18 WHEREAS, President Grant left Galena to serve in the Civil
19 War in 1861, eventually becoming a general and a war hero; and

20 WHEREAS, Upon his return to Galena after the war,

1 then-General Grant was presented by Galena citizens with a
2 handsome furnished house on Bouthillier Street, which today is
3 managed by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and is
4 listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

5 WHEREAS, Galena is also along the path of U.S. Route 20,
6 the longest highway in the United States, stretching over
7 3,300 miles from Boston, Massachusetts to Newport, Oregon,
8 which is celebrating its centennial in 2026; the highway
9 passes through the heart of the city, known as Spring Street;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, In 2026, Galena plans to honor 200 years of its
12 history concurrently as communities and travelers from coast
13 to coast intend to celebrate key anniversaries in American
14 heritage, exploration, and connectivity to mark the United
15 States' semiquincentennial; and

16 WHEREAS, Galena aims to inspire fellow Americans to
17 reflect on our past, strengthen our love of country, and renew
18 our commitment to the ideals of democracy through programs
19 that educate, engage, and unite us as a nation; and

20 WHEREAS, Galena believes America 250 will foster shared
21 experiences that spark imagination, showcase the rich tapestry
22 of our American stories, inspire service in our communities,

1 and honor the enduring strength and celebrate the resiliency
2 of the United States of America; and

3 WHEREAS, Galena's citizens and visitors alike will
4 commemorate such an important year in local and American
5 history with various events spread throughout the year in
6 honor of the city's and the country's unique and shared
7 stories; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we recognize the City of Galena on celebrating its
11 bicentennial in tandem with America 250 in 2026; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to City of Galena as an expression of our esteem and
15 respect.