



HR0990

LRB104 22493 LAW 38938 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of Winthrop
4 Harbor on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of its
5 incorporation, a milestone that reflects a proud legacy of
6 community, perseverance, and the enduring spirit of its
7 residents; and

8 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor is situated in
9 Lake County, approximately 45 miles north of Chicago and 47
10 miles south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, along the western shore
11 of Lake Michigan; it holds the distinction of being the
12 northeasternmost point in the State of Illinois, carrying the
13 motto "Cornerstone of Illinois", a fitting description of a
14 community that has long anchored the northeastern edge of our
15 great State; and

16 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor is a proud part of
17 the great 61st State House District, a district that runs
18 along the Wisconsin border to the north and the shores of Lake
19 Michigan to the east, encompassing some of the most storied
20 and scenic communities in northern Lake County; the village's
21 history, character, and continued growth are a source of great
22 pride for the constituents and representative of District 61;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, The earliest recorded settlers of what is now
2 Winthrop Harbor were Nelson Landon and Jeremiah Stowell, who
3 arrived from Niles, Michigan en route from Chicago toward
4 Green Bay, Wisconsin around 1835; finding the area suited to
5 their needs, Nelson Landon built the first home in the area, a
6 modest 12-by-12-foot cabin situated near what is now 13th
7 Street and Adams or 15th Street and Kellogg Creek, before
8 returning to Michigan to bring his wife, Phoebe Phelps Landon,
9 to her new home; Phoebe Landon proceeded to become the first
10 woman settler to give birth in Benton Township on July 27,
11 1836, and her cabin became a welcoming way station for other
12 settlers seeking a place to rest, a meal, or a cup of hot
13 coffee; Nelson Landon subsequently farmed more than 1,000
14 acres and served as a prominent political figure in Lake
15 County who was instrumental in relocating the county seat from
16 Burlington, now known as Libertyville, to Little Fort, or
17 Waukegan today; and

18 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor takes its name
19 from Winthrop, Massachusetts, reflecting the ambitions of its
20 early developers, with J.H. Van Vlissingen first envisioning
21 development of the area in 1883; the Winthrop Harbor and Dock
22 Company acquired more than 2,000 acres of land just south of
23 the Wisconsin state line in 1899, platting the village and
24 laying the foundation for organized community life; and

1 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor was formally
2 incorporated on July 15, 1901, shortly before the
3 incorporation of its neighbor, the City of Zion; though
4 originally envisioned for industrial development, it evolved
5 throughout the twentieth century into the family-friendly
6 residential lakefront community it is today, a place where
7 neighbors know one another and community pride runs deep; and

8 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor is home to North
9 Point Marina, the largest freshwater marina in the United
10 States, encompassing 140 acres on the shores of Lake Michigan
11 and hosting more than 1,500 boat slips, public beaches, a
12 fishing pier, a yacht club, and 40 fishing charters; the
13 marina draws nearly one million visitors annually and serves
14 as an economic and recreational anchor for northeastern
15 Illinois and the broader Chicago metropolitan region; and

16 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor is adjacent to
17 Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park, a 4,160-acre
18 natural area that preserves the only remaining beach ridge and
19 swale habitat in the State of Illinois; the park is home to
20 more than 650 native plant species and 300 animal species,
21 including more than 60 state-protected species and several
22 federally protected ones, making the area a destination of
23 both recreational and ecological significance; and

1 WHEREAS, The Village of Winthrop Harbor is part of a
2 vibrant northern Lake County region that includes Naval
3 Station Great Lakes, the United States Navy's only boot camp,
4 situated just miles to the south; for well over a century, its
5 proximity to this vital national defense installation has
6 woven the fabric of military service and community into the
7 daily life of local residents; and

8 WHEREAS, For 125 years, the Village of Winthrop Harbor's
9 residents, elected officials, and employees have demonstrated
10 a steadfast commitment to public service, sound governance,
11 and the quality of life of all who call this lakefront area
12 home, and the community continues to invest in its future
13 through economic development, infrastructure, parks, and the
14 cultivation of civic pride that makes it a model community in
15 the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate the Village of Winthrop Harbor on the 125th
19 anniversary of its incorporation, celebrated on July 15, 2026,
20 and we commend its residents, officials, and civic leaders for
21 their dedication to building a strong, vibrant, and welcoming
22 community on the northeastern shore of Lake Michigan; and be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That we recognize the Village of Winthrop Harbor
2 for its rich history, from its earliest settler families who
3 built their first cabin in the wilderness of Benton Township
4 to the thriving lakefront community it is today, and we extend
5 our best wishes to all who live, work, and find joy along its
6 storied shore; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 presented to Mayor Dr. Michael Bruno and the Village of
9 Winthrop Harbor Board of Trustees as an expression of our
10 esteem and respect.