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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to  
3 congratulate United Airlines on the 100th anniversary of its  
4 founding; and

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WHEREAS, The aviation pioneer Walter T. Varney began  
6 providing air transport of mail service on April 6, 1926, and  
7 this is considered one of the foundational pillars of modern  
8 commercial air service; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Varney, the proprietor of Varney Air  
Service, was involved in a consolidation of various companies,  
and those companies organized to become what is now known as  
United Airlines; and

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WHEREAS, Boeing Air Transport, a subsidiary that evolved  
into the entity that became United Airlines, was the first to  
employ a "flying nurse"; in 1930, Ellen Church, a licensed  
pilot and nurse, was the founder of the "sky girls", women  
hired to calm sick and frightened passengers; in addition to  
providing nursing while onboard, the sky girls loaded luggage,  
helped fuel the plane, and collected tickets; the sky girls  
are the forerunners to today's flight attendants who are  
essential safety professionals aboard every commercial flight;  
and

1           WHEREAS, United Airlines was the first to operate the  
2 Boeing 247 in 1933, and the operation of this aircraft made  
3 coast to coast service possible in less than 20 hours; and

4           WHEREAS, United Airlines has long been committed to  
5 excellent customer service, including opening the world's  
6 first flight kitchen in 1936; and

7           WHEREAS, United Airlines has long been committed to the  
8 use of technology to improve training and operations; it was  
9 the first airline to train pilots on electronic flight  
10 simulators in 1954 and the first airline to use an operational  
11 jet bridge in 1958; and

12           WHEREAS, United Airlines was the first to fly both the  
13 Boeing 767 and 777, the cornerstones of twin-engine wide body  
14 service; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1984, United Airlines was the first domestic  
16 carrier to fly to all 50 states and used the moniker, "First to  
17 Fifty", to celebrate this feat; and

18           WHEREAS, After showing commitment to connecting all 50  
19 states, United Airlines partnered with international carriers  
20 to create the first global airline alliance, Star Alliance,

1 which today has 25 airline members and provides service to  
2 more than 190 countries and more than 1,100 airports; and

3 WHEREAS, United Airlines continuously shows its commitment  
4 and leadership on environmental issues; in 2021, it was the  
5 first airline to fly passengers with 100% sustainable aviation  
6 fuel (SAF); and

7 WHEREAS, As United Airlines continues to connect people  
8 and unite the world, it does so by keeping people connected  
9 throughout their travels; it is the first major U.S. airline  
10 to roll out Starlink, which provides the same high speed,  
11 low-latency internet service in the air as internet customers  
12 enjoy on the ground; and

13 WHEREAS, United Airlines is the first to fly 1,000  
14 mainline aircraft, which makes it the world's largest airline;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, United Airlines is headquartered in Chicago and  
17 proudly employs more than 18,000 people in the local area;  
18 entities that later became United Airlines have served Chicago  
19 since 1927, and this includes service at Chicago Municipal  
20 Airport, which later became Midway, and later Chicago O'Hare  
21 International Airport; and

1           WHEREAS, United Airlines recently announced more than 750  
2 flights to serve O'Hare International Airport, including  
3 year-round service to multiple international locations,  
4 including London, Paris, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Brussels, Munich,  
5 Amsterdam, Zurich, Sao Paul, Dublin, and Tel Aviv, which is  
6 further evidence of its commitment to connecting people and  
7 uniting the world, showing why it has earned the nickname of  
8 Chicago's Hometown Airline; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate United  
11 Airlines on its 100th anniversary and express our gratitude  
12 for its century of service; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to United Airlines as a symbol of our respect and  
15 esteem.