



SR0783

LRB104 21742 RMO 37400 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the City of Harvard on the 85th anniversary of
4 its annual Harvard Milk Days festival; and

5 WHEREAS, Planning for the first Harvard Milk Days festival
6 began under Harvard Chamber of Commerce President Frank W.
7 Lanning, owner of Lanning Bag Company, in 1941 and was
8 finalized by President R.J. Goll in 1942, when the festival
9 became a reality with the help of Earl McIntyre and Vern Gay;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The first Harvard Milk Day was a single-day event
12 in which men, women, and children gathered to honor local
13 dairy farms on June 18, 1942; the festival received the
14 official title of Milk Day in 1943, when it featured a showing
15 of dairy cattle; the first Milk Days Queen was crowned in 1945,
16 the first large-scale parade was held in 1946, and events such
17 as the 1949 "whitewash" of Ayer Street, which caused it to
18 resemble the Milky Way, continued to flourish throughout the
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Harvard Milk Days eventually grew into a
21 three-day celebration that was held in a variety of locations
22 before making its permanent home at Milky Way Park in 2022,

1 where more than \$300,000 in improvements have been made to the
2 festival grounds, including the addition of a barn hosting
3 dairy cows and calves, the creation of paths, and the
4 establishment of a water supply for multiple areas; and

5 WHEREAS, Harvard Milk Days celebrates its 85th anniversary
6 as the United States marks 250 years, with this summer's
7 festival taking place June 5-7, 2026 and a variety of events
8 being held in May and June, including the crowning of the Milk
9 Days Queen on May 9th and the Milk Days breakfast on June 6th;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Harvard Milk Days, which draws thousands of
12 participants each year, is the oldest and longest-running
13 hometown celebration in the State of Illinois; therefore, be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
17 City of Harvard on the 85th anniversary of its annual Harvard
18 Milk Days festival, and we extend our best wishes for many more
19 years of successful celebrations; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the Mayor of the City of Harvard as an expression
22 of our esteem and respect.