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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the 2026 inductees to the Illinois Manufacturing
4 Hall of Fame and commend them for their historic and positive
5 impact on Illinois and the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Illinois manufacturers play a major role in the
7 State's economy, employing 650,000 workers directly and
8 contributing the single largest share of Illinois' gross
9 domestic product; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois manufacturers have played a major role
11 in every significant event in the history of the United
12 States, including the Civil War, World War II while serving as
13 the Arsenal of Democracy, the Industrial Revolution, Industry
14 4.0, the Space Race, and now quantum; and

15 WHEREAS, Illinois manufacturers make the world a better
16 place to live every single day by creating lifesaving medical
17 products, feeding people throughout the world, making
18 transportation systems that move people and products around
19 the globe and into space, employing new communication
20 technologies that were not envisioned a short decade ago,
21 building our critical infrastructure, and providing for our
22 nation's defense; and

1 WHEREAS, The Illinois Manufacturers' Association will be
2 inducting the 3rd class into the Illinois Manufacturing Hall
3 of Fame on June 25, 2026; and

4 WHEREAS, The 12 inductees, which include people, products,
5 and companies, have made a substantial and indelible impact on
6 manufacturing in Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, The 12 inductees in the 2026 Illinois
8 Manufacturing Hall of Fame represent a cross section of more
9 than 200 years of Illinois manufacturing, which includes
10 iconic products that have revolutionized daily life, companies
11 that have transformed our society, and visionary leaders who
12 dedicated themselves to building a brighter tomorrow; and

13 WHEREAS, The 12 inductees in the 2026 Illinois
14 Manufacturing Hall of Fame include:

15 (1) Joseph F. Glidden, an Illinois businessman and
16 farmer, is known as the "Father of Barbed Wire" who put
17 DeKalb and Illinois on the map with his invention that
18 "fenced the west"; he later donated 63 acres of his
19 homestead as a site for Northern Illinois State Normal
20 School that later became Northern Illinois University;

21 (2) Rick Delawder, president of SWD Inc., leads a
22 second-generation, family-owned metal finishing, coating,

1 and fastener-sorting facility in Addison with a commitment
2 to excellence that defines the best of American
3 manufacturing; his industry leadership spans far beyond
4 his own company; he has served as board president of both
5 the National Association for Surface Finishing and the
6 Chicago Metal Finishers Institute and chaired the Illinois
7 Manufacturers' Association Board of Directors from
8 2017-2019;

9 (3) Don Welge, over six decades, transformed Gilster
10 Milling Co., a small family-owned flour mill, into
11 Gilster-Mary Lee, a private label food manufacturing
12 powerhouse; an eternal optimist and passionate advocate
13 for southern Illinois, he was a philanthropic civic leader
14 who worked on a range of projects from those supporting
15 local communities and historic preservation to the
16 nation's food supply chain security;

17 (4) Marsha Serlin, founder of United Scrap Metal, an
18 award-winning leader in recycling solutions, is a pioneer
19 and sustainability trailblazer; she founded the company in
20 1978 with \$200 and a rented truck, growing it into one of
21 the largest recyclers in the United States, and is proud
22 to employ more than 750 team members throughout eleven
23 operations in nine states; she is dedicated to giving back
24 to the community and leads her team based on the mission of
25 making a positive impact in the lives of others;

26 (5) White House China, produced by Pickard China in

1 Antioch since 1893, is a high-quality, durable porcelain
2 with gold accents and has been used by American
3 presidents, including the pattern "Kailua Blue" that was
4 used by President Barack Obama and the Magnolia Service
5 (designed by Anna Weatherly) used by President George W.
6 Bush that featured a green basket-weave pattern and gold
7 eagle; the china is also used on Air Force One and in
8 American Embassies across the world;

9 (6) Eli's Cheesecake was started in 1940 when Eli
10 Schulman found a foreclosure sign on the door of his
11 favorite coffee shop; armed with little more than a
12 twinkle in his eye and his mother's recipes, he bought the
13 place, and the rest is history; 40 years and a few
14 restaurants later, he declared cheesecake to be the
15 signature dessert at the legendary Eli's The Place For
16 Steak; it was there that he created Chicago Style
17 Cheesecake, thanks to his unconventional fast and hot
18 baking method with no water bath; the delicious result was
19 a cheesecake loved for its beautiful caramelization,
20 creamy texture, and all-butter shortbread cookie crust; it
21 debuted at the first Taste of Chicago in 1980, becoming
22 the festival's most popular dessert and soon earning the
23 reputation of Chicago food icon; Eli's Cheesecake is
24 proudly made at its third-generation bakery in Chicago;

25 (7) NERDS Gummy Clusters, launched in 2020 by Ferrara
26 Candy Company, is an innovative multi-textural candy that

1 became an immediate sensation growing into one of the most
2 recognizable and best-selling global brands; this popular
3 candy features a sweet, fruity gummy center covered in
4 iconic tangy, crunchy NERDS, creating a mix of textures
5 and flavors in a single bite;

6 (8) Spray Paint, contained in a sealed, pressurized
7 can, is released when a valve button is pushed; in 1949,
8 Edward H. Seymour from Seymour of Sycamore added paint to
9 existing spray can technology and patented the product
10 that delivers a smooth, even coat of paint with more than
11 400 million cans produced annually in the United States;

12 (9) Lapham-Hickey Steel, founded in 1926 in Chicago,
13 is a 4th generation family-owned and family-operated steel
14 service center headquartered in Bedford Park with 13
15 locations and 1,000 teammates; for a century, it has
16 supplied a wide variety of high-quality steel products,
17 supporting the manufacturing base and critical industries
18 throughout Illinois, the Midwest, and North America;

19 (10) S&C Electric Company, established in 1911,
20 transformed electricity distribution with the invention of
21 the Liquid Power Fuse, leading a new era of safer power
22 delivery; today, the company continues to empower people
23 to transform the grid by building on its legacy of
24 technology leadership to deliver innovative solutions for
25 a safer, more reliable, and more resilient electrical
26 grid;

1 (11) Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), headquartered in
2 Chicago, is an essential global agricultural supply chain
3 manager, processor, and premier human and animal nutrition
4 provider; a cutting-edge innovator, it is a leader in
5 business-driven sustainability efforts that support a
6 strong agricultural sector, resilient supply chains, and a
7 vast and growing bioeconomy; and

8 (12) C. H. Hanson & Co., founded in 1866 in Chicago by
9 Christian Henry Hanson, is a fifth-generation,
10 family-owned company that has a range of tools to serve
11 construction, plumbing, and metalworking sectors; and

12 WHEREAS, Illinois manufactures have played a key role in
13 the first 250 years of America and will continue to do so in
14 the future; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
17 2026 inductees to the Illinois Manufacturing Hall of Fame and
18 commend them for their historic and positive impact on
19 Illinois and the United States, and we extend our gratitude
20 for their continued commitment to building a brighter future
21 for all Americans; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
23 presented to the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and the

1 2026 inductees to the Illinois Manufacturing Hall of Fame as a
2 token of our esteem and respect.