



HR0481

LRB101 12908 ALS 62009 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Skyview Drive-In in Belleville on the occasion of its 70th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, On July 8, 1949, the Skyview Drive-In opened as part of the Bloomer family chain of theaters (BAC Theatres) with the film On Our Merry Way; the drive-in accommodated 900 cars and had 200 seats for walk-in patrons; admission was 60 cents; in addition to movies, the drive-in offered a playground with pony rides, miniature train rides, and a small Ferris wheel; and

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WHEREAS, In 1953, with the advent of Cinemascope, wings were added to the side of the screen to accommodate the wider picture; in the spring of 1955, the 60-foot screen and the playground were damaged by a tornado; the screen was replaced with a larger, 115-foot, one, which was supposedly the largest in the Midwest at that time; in 1981, another storm damaged the 115-foot screen, and it was replaced by a somewhat smaller one; a second screen was built not long afterward, making the drive-in a twin; for more than 60 years, employees were trained to project movies on the big screen; in 1995, a radio sound system was installed, and the drive-in became digital in 2013; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Skyview Drive-In's sign is one of the most  
2           iconic movie marquees in the country; designed by Kirn Signs,  
3           the rocket ship marquee appeared in 1950; it was damaged by a  
4           storm in 1955; in the early 1980s, the drive-in turned off the  
5           function that made the sign flash, due to a sign ordinance in  
6           Belleville that outlawed flashing signs; since then, the  
7           drive-in has kept the lights off; and

8           WHEREAS, The Skyview Drive-In is one of the two drive-ins  
9           built by the Bloomer family and is the only remaining drive-in  
10          in operation in the St. Louis region; today, it is owned by  
11          Steve Bloomer; the first screen can hold 440 vehicles, and the  
12          second screen can hold 190 vehicles; the drive-in's season runs  
13          from April through November; therefore, be it

14          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15          HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16          we congratulate the Skyview Drive-In in Belleville on the  
17          occasion of its 70th anniversary and wish them many more  
18          successful years; and be it further

19          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20          presented to Steve Bloomer as an expression of our esteem and  
21          respect.