



HR0424

LRB102 19606 MST 28375 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to commemorate the 160th anniversary of  
4 the founding of the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead in DeKalb in  
5 1861; and

6           WHEREAS, The Glidden Homestead and Historical Center sits  
7 on the site where Joseph Farwell Glidden invented barbed wire  
8 with his second wife, Lucinda; he lost his first wife in  
9 childbirth in 1846 and his three children during an epidemic a  
10 year later in 1847; and

11           WHEREAS, Joseph Glidden, along with hardware merchant  
12 Isaac Ellwood and lumberman Jacob Haish, crafted the idea for  
13 a "barbed-wire" fence upon witnessing a fence board with  
14 projecting brad points at a county fair in September of 1873;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, Joseph Glidden and Lucinda experimented in the  
17 home's kitchen using a coffee mill to create the first-ever  
18 strand of barbed wire; and

19           WHEREAS, At the age of 61, Joseph Glidden traveled to  
20 Chicago to patent his new invention on November 24, 1874; and

1           WHEREAS, Joseph Glidden and Isaac Elwood then built the  
2 world's first barbed wire factory in 1874; and

3           WHEREAS, In 1857, Joseph Glidden, Isaac Elwood, and Jacob  
4 Haish, along with journalist Clinton Rosette, founded what is  
5 now Northern Illinois University with part of the land where  
6 the idea for barbed wire originated; and

7           WHEREAS, Later, Joseph Glidden served until his death in  
8 1906 at the age of 93 as publisher for founding editor Clinton  
9 Rosette's Daily Chronicle newspaper in DeKalb; and

10           WHEREAS, By the time of Joseph Glidden's death, Isaac  
11 Ellwood estimated that their factory had produced enough  
12 barbed wire to circle the earth 17 times, earning DeKalb the  
13 nickname of "The Barbed City" to this day; and

14           WHEREAS, Barbed wire played a significant role in settling  
15 the American West, where it became popular due to the lack of  
16 stone or wood available for fencing crops and livestock; and

17           WHEREAS, The Illinois State Historical Society has erected  
18 a historical marker commemorating barbed wire manufacturing at  
19 the Glidden Homestead; and

20           WHEREAS, Members of the Glidden family have lived on the

1 Glidden Homestead from the time it was built in 1861 until  
2 1998, when it became a museum; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we commemorate the 160th anniversary of the Joseph F. Glidden  
6 Homestead; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical  
9 Center as an expression of our esteem and respect.