



HR0360

LRB103 33120 LAW 62927 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of Westville on the occasion of its 150th sesquicentennial celebration; and

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WHEREAS, Westville was platted in 1873 and petitioned to become a village in July 1896, with the first village board meeting being held in September 1896; and

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WHEREAS, Westville's early days were closely tied to the coal industry as a primary industry and a way of life, leading the village to become known as a melting pot of nations due to the many nationalities that immigrated to the United States and eventually made their way to work in the local coal mines, with the village once being home to as many as 37 different nationalities; its miners returned home each day by way of the Westville Train Depot, established in 1885, which remains located in the center of the village and has been restored to serve as a museum filled with local history and includes a caboose, two coal cars, a mural, and a coal mining silhouette; and

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WHEREAS, Westville opened its first U.S. Post Office in 1876; its first bank, the First National Bank, was opened in 1904; the village's water system began in 1926, which

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1 coincided with the opening of Zamberletti Park; its first
2 library was launched in 1937; and

3 WHEREAS, Westville's first public schools were the Central
4 and Edison schools, with the first Central School building
5 being purchased by Saints Peter & Paul Church; the village's
6 Westville School District, known today as Westville Community
7 Unit School District #2, was founded in 1910 and now includes
8 the Judith Giacoma Elementary School, Westville Junior High
9 School, and Westville High School; and

10 WHEREAS, Westville has been a strong contender in
11 athletics over the years; the village is home to the 1923
12 Westville High School football team, referred to as the "1000%
13 Team" for remaining undefeated and allowing no opponent to
14 score, and the annual Coal Bucket football game, established
15 in 1963; the village will be celebrating the 100th and 60th
16 anniversaries of the team and game, respectively, this year;
17 the village is also the hometown of Hayden Copass, who won an
18 IHSA Class 1A State Wrestling Championship in 2020; and

19 WHEREAS, Westville has retained a strong local business
20 community since its inception and has been home to many fine
21 businesses over its 150-year history, with some of the
22 village's most notable establishments including the Jacket
23 Factory, Joy Ann Bakery, The Grab It Here Store, Lisick

1 Appliance, Bob's Bargain Barn, Le Grand Cleaners, and McMillan
2 Appliance; the village was also home to the Bee Line Transit
3 Corporation, founded by Dominic "Nick" Giacom, which became
4 an asset to the south end of Vermilion County, providing jobs
5 and transportation for many years; and

6 WHEREAS, Westville's churches have played an important
7 role in the community, dating back to the founding of the
8 Christian Church in 1870 and Saints Peter & Paul Church, the
9 oldest Roman Catholic Church, in 1897; today, Westville boasts
10 three churches, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Trinity United
11 Church of Christ, and the Westville First Church of Christ;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Currently, Westville's residents are under the
14 care and protection of the Westville Police Department and the
15 volunteer Westville Area Fire Protection District; and

16 WHEREAS, Westville remains a community whose residents are
17 proud to honor and celebrate their village's history while
18 continuing to make the village a great place to live;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate the Village of Westville on its 150th

1 anniversary, and we wish the village continued success in the
2 years to come; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the Village of Westville as an expression of our
5 esteem and respect.