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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Turkey Hill Grange on the 150-year anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, The Turkey Hill Grange is a family fraternal community service organization with special interest in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Oliver H. Kelley and six co-founders started the Grange movement in the U.S. in 1867; the Turkey Hill Grange was chartered in 1874 with 19 members, including 15 men and four women, making this Grange the first to require both men and women as members; and

WHEREAS, The first meetings of the Turkey Hill Grange were held at the homes of the charter members, and the first Turkey Hill Grange hall was built in 1885; and

WHEREAS, After the first Turkey Hill Grange hall burned down on January 28, 1904, a committee quickly drew up plans for a second building; the first meeting in the new two-story frame structure was held on November 24, 1904; and

WHEREAS, A fund to build a new third hall was started on

1 May 23, 1924, and the first meeting in the third and current
2 building was held on July 19, 1937; and

3 WHEREAS, An elevator, four accessible restrooms, and a
4 paved parking lot were added to the building in 2004, and the
5 dining room and kitchen were renovated in 2023; and

6 WHEREAS, There are over 130 members of the Turkey Hill
7 Grange, ranging in age from 14 to nearly 100, with a variety of
8 backgrounds; and

9 WHEREAS, To assist with finances, the Turkey Hill Grange
10 hosts a Wurstmarkt and an annual chicken dinner and ham and
11 peach dinner, all of which are major sources of income; and

12 WHEREAS, The Turkey Hill Grange is an active participant
13 in local Farmers' Markets and makes its facilities available
14 to the local community for meetings, funeral meals, and other
15 events; and

16 WHEREAS, Each year, the Turkey Hill Grange recognizes an
17 outstanding teacher, law enforcement officer, firefighter, and
18 community servant who are all non-members; its quilters also
19 typically create 10 Quilts of Valor a year to award to
20 veterans; and

1 WHEREAS, The Turkey Hill Grange sponsors a 4H Club and an
2 American Heritage Troop and supports many Belleville community
3 activities and youth sports teams; it makes food donations to
4 the Violence Prevention Center in Belleville and donates
5 dictionaries to local schools; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate the Turkey Hill Grange on their 150-year
9 anniversary, and we commend them on their continuous support
10 to the Belleville community; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the Turkey Hill Grange as a symbol of our esteem
13 and respect.