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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, Stewardson, located on Route 32 in the southeastern part of Shelby County, was founded on September 30, 1874; and

WHEREAS, Stewardson's namesake, William Stewardson Jr., was born to William and Mary Nicholson Stewardson in Westmoreland County, England on February 24, 1828; he came to Shelby County in 1845; he married Nancy Douthit in 1851, and they relocated to Richland and Prairie Township soon after; and

WHEREAS, Stewardson was plotted by the surveyor of Shelby County on January 10, 1874, and it was incorporated as a village on September 30, 1874; and

WHEREAS, Stewardson's 150-year history includes a number of important events, such as the establishment of the Enterprise, the first village newspaper, in 1878, the building of an opera hall in 1893, the completion of the Hoffman Block Building in 1909, the vote for the village to be a dry community in 1910 which was later appealed in 2013, the

1 consolidation of Stewardson-Strasburg and the opening of a new  
2 high school north of town along Route 32 in 1951, the placement  
3 of street signs at intersections in 1969, the opening of a new  
4 series station and convenience store in 2000, and the opening  
5 of a Dollar General in 2022; and

6 WHEREAS, Stewardson's school system was consolidated in  
7 1949, with its first class graduating from the new high school  
8 in 1951; the Stewardson Grade School was built adjoined to the  
9 high school in 1967; the old Stewardson Grade School building  
10 was then sold to the village to become the civic center in  
11 1970, and the structure was demolished in 1980; the school  
12 system added an every-day kindergarten in 1988, a  
13 prekindergarten in 1995, and a new junior wing in 1997; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, Stewardson is home to over 20 businesses,  
15 three churches, the Stewardson Fire and Ambulance District, a  
16 new Stewardson Community Center, and a new American Legion  
17 Hall; and

18 WHEREAS, Stewardson is a standing example of the positive  
19 growth that can be found in a small community; its citizens  
20 show care and concern for one's family, neighbors, and  
21 community, and they also show continued dedication towards  
22 growth and a positive vision for the future; and

1           WHEREAS, Stewardson will celebrate its 150th anniversary  
2           from June 27 through June 30, 2024; therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4           HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5           we congratulate the Village of Stewardson on its 150th  
6           anniversary; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8           presented to the Village of Stewardson as an expression of our  
9           esteem and respect.