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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Bodo Gsedl, born in Taufkirchen (Vils), Germany, attended West Chicago Community High School as an AFS exchange student and is a proud graduate; during one of his visits to West Chicago, he brought his twin brother, Uwe, who fell in love with a woman, married her, and settled in West Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, When Taufkirchen (Vils) was exploring a sister city relationship, Bodo Gsedl suggested West Chicago; an exploratory visit was made, and the two cities made a proclamation declaring the relationship in 1999; and

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WHEREAS, A sister city or a twin town relationship is a form of legal or social agreement between two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial ties; and

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WHEREAS, In 1999, a group of West Chicagoans traveled to Taufkirchen, Germany to sign the official partnership papers to become sister cities; Nancy Smith, City Clerk of West Chicago, signed on behalf of the City of West Chicago, and Franz Hofstetter, Burgermeister of Taufkirchen, signed on behalf of the municipality of Taufkirchen; and

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1 WHEREAS, Over the past 25 years, there have been over 20
2 exchanges of visitors between the two cities, introducing
3 participants to the customs of each country and exploring
4 German and American cultures, including musical and dance
5 groups that have performed in the other country; and

6 WHEREAS, Visitors are hosted in family homes in each
7 community, honoring the social agreement set forth in 1999;
8 the families participate in welcome dinners, tourist
9 attractions, and unique opportunities to visit facilities that
10 are not open to the public; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2019, the West Chicago sister cities group
12 celebrated the partnership's 20th anniversary with a visit to
13 Taufkirchen, Germany, which included the 20th anniversary
14 celebration dinner with the signing of a proclamation and an
15 exchange of gifts; and

16 WHEREAS, West Chicago and Taufkirchen share a similar
17 focus on enriching regional goods and businesses through
18 annual festivals and markets; Blooming Fest is DuPage County's
19 official welcoming committee of spring; it is held in West
20 Chicago's downtown and features one of the region's largest
21 plant sales, live music, and a variety of craft and food
22 vendors; in Taufkirchen, the Adlberger Market transforms the
23 town center into a merchant and entertainment mile with

1 open-air concerts, and all kinds of delicacies are offered by
2 local hosts and butchers; and

3 WHEREAS, West Chicago and Taufkirchen are celebrating the
4 25th anniversary of their sister city relationship on May 15,
5 2024 as Sister City Partnership Day; 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 recognize West Chicago and Taufkirchen on their Sister City
9 Partnership Day; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of the resolution be
11 presented to the mayor of West Chicago as a symbol of our
12 respect and esteem.