



HR0854

LRB103 41116 ECR 74333 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of Ridge Farm
4 in the Elwood Township of Vermilion County on the occasion of
5 its 150th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, Abraham Smith, a Tennessee farmer seeking the
7 rich soil and opportunities that Illinois had to offer,
8 founded Ridge Farm in 1829, building his farm on a glacial
9 ridge and thus giving the village its name; he later opened a
10 post office, a blacksmith shop, a tavern, a general store, and
11 an inn, planting the roots that would anchor and help develop
12 the village; and

13 WHEREAS, From 1873 to 1874, the Village of Ridge Farm
14 further grew with the construction of railroads, increasing
15 the number of its local businesses in the village, which
16 included flour mills, lumberyards, hardware stores, hotels,
17 grain businesses, and a bank; and

18 WHEREAS, The Village of Ridge Farm's incorporation
19 petition was filed at the Vermilion County Clerk's Office on
20 March 3, 1874, signed by County Judge R. W. Hanford on March 4,
21 1874, and approved by the general consensus of the community
22 in a store owned by John C. Pierce on March 21, 1874,

1 exemplifying the principles of a government by the people, for
2 the people; and

3 WHEREAS, The Village of Ridge Farm has important
4 connections to several historical figures, including Abraham
5 Lincoln, who frequently spent time in the area early in his
6 legal career; the village was also once home to such esteemed
7 individuals as Brigadier General Bonner Fellers, an assistant
8 to General Douglas MacArthur and director of psychological
9 warfare, Lori Gerard Hutt, an Emmy Award winner, and Ron
10 Dillman, a Pulitzer Prize winner; and

11 WHEREAS, The Village of Ridge Farm is less defined by
12 boundaries on a map and more defined by its shared community
13 values, rich cultural history, environmental stewardship, and
14 commitment to progress in local business; and

15 WHEREAS, The Village of Ridge Farm has many ties to the
16 past but also ties to its future through engaging in a number
17 of projects to build a better tomorrow for its residents;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we congratulate the Village of Ridge Farm on its
22 sesquicentennial anniversary; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 presented to Ridge Farm Village President Shawn Schendel and
3 Elwood Township Supervisor Jennifer Kunze as a symbol of our
4 esteem and respect.