



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Village of Malta will celebrate its  
3 Sesquicentennial on June 10-11, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, The town was settled upon the fertile, billowy  
5 prairie, without the usual benefits of groves or streams to  
6 attract early settlers; Ezekiel Whitehead commenced farming  
7 operations in the area in 1851 and was soon joined by land  
8 speculators; and

9 WHEREAS, When the Galena Railroad Company built a branch  
10 line through the town in 1854 and established a station to load  
11 farm produce, the town grew rapidly; it was recognized as a  
12 village in 1856; and

13 WHEREAS, A fire from a kerosene lamp nearly consumed the  
14 town in 1894; homes and stores were rebuilt using brick rather  
15 than wood materials, and citizens voted to build a large barrel  
16 cistern at the fire station in 1899 and pipe water to hydrants  
17 and homes throughout the town; and

18 WHEREAS, The Malta Women's Club with their philosophy of "a  
19 better Malta" opened the first library which they maintained in  
20 different locations until the present building was constructed  
21 with donations of money and land; and

22 WHEREAS, Malta was renown for its municipal band and  
23 holiday parades; passenger trains would bring thousands of  
24 people from across Northern Illinois to Malta for Fourth of  
25 July and other celebrations; and

26 WHEREAS, As the nation began to manufacture millions of  
27 cars and trucks at the start of the twentieth century, a  
28 transcontinental highway was planned; Congress appropriated  
29 money for the "Lincoln Highway" which would run through Malta;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Education has always been important to the  
3 community; a one-room school house gave way to a two-room  
4 building, a consolidated school complex, and then a separate  
5 high school structure; when the Malta District was consolidated  
6 with the communities of DeKalb and Cortland, the Paul T. Wright  
7 Elementary School in Malta was born as an experiment for  
8 educational and teaching excellence between the school  
9 district and Northern Illinois University; and

10 WHEREAS, The community has also been home to Kishwaukee  
11 Community College since 1968; the 120-acre campus attracts over  
12 10,000 students to its programs; the college offers two-year  
13 degrees in 37 areas, 64 career/occupational degrees and  
14 certificates, and customized training; and

15 WHEREAS, Residents of Malta have long supported and taught  
16 at nearby Northern Illinois University since its founding in  
17 1895; the university is noted for excellence in teaching,  
18 discovery and outreach; more than 25,000 students study there  
19 and nearly 200,000 alumni call NIU their alma mater; therefore,  
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
23 we congratulate the more than 1,400 residents of the Village  
24 and Township of Malta on the occasion of the sesquicentennial  
25 celebration; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
27 presented to the Village of Malta as an expression of our  
28 esteem and with our best wishes for the continuing success of  
29 the village.