



HR1333

LRB098 22899 MST 61849 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the Sheldon Peck Homestead on
4 the occasion of the 175th anniversary of its founding; and

5 WHEREAS, Sheldon Peck was born in Vermont in 1797; he
6 married Harriet Cory in 1825, and shortly thereafter, made his
7 way to Illinois; he completed his homestead (then known as
8 Babcock's Grove) in Lombard in 1839 and became involved in many
9 of the reform movements that started to take hold in the
10 mid-1800s; he established the first school in the area to
11 ensure all children would receive an education; and

12 WHEREAS, Sheldon Peck became deeply involved in the
13 abolitionist movement and supported it to the extent that he
14 became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad; runaway
15 slaves would make their way to his home, where they would be
16 given food, shelter, and a place to rest, before moving on to
17 the next "station"; and

18 WHEREAS, During the years Sheldon Peck was aiding slaves on
19 the road to freedom, he continued his painting business,
20 producing portraits for many local families; it is believed his
21 art business served as a cover for his Underground Railroad
22 work, allowing him to covertly move slaves between safe houses

1 in his wagon; and

2 WHEREAS, Sheldon Peck's homestead was sold to the Village
3 of Lombard in the mid-1990s; in 1996, the process of
4 restoration began with historical research, fundraising, and
5 finally physical refurbishing; in August of 1999, a ribbon
6 cutting ceremony was held and Sheldon Peck's home, restored to
7 its 1839 appearance, was unveiled; in 2011, the homestead
8 became part of the National Park Service's Network to Freedom,
9 an organization that catalogs Underground Railroad sites; the
10 homestead will soon be placed on the National Register of
11 Historic Places; and

12 WHEREAS, A 3-day celebration event was held in honor of the
13 175th anniversary at the Sheldon Peck Homestead on August 22nd,
14 23rd, and 24th, 2014; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we recognize the Sheldon Peck Homestead on its 175th
18 anniversary; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Lombard Historical Society as an expression of
21 our esteem and respect.