



HR0379

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the residents of the  
4 Village of Gilberts on the occasion of the Village's 125th  
5 anniversary; and

6           WHEREAS, The beginning of human settlement in the Village  
7 of Gilberts can be traced back prior to the War of 1812; at  
8 that time, various Native American tribes, including the  
9 Blackhawks, Algonquin, and Pottowatomies inhabited the rolling  
10 hills of the region; after the War of 1812, the tribes were  
11 taken off the land and the area became officially opened for  
12 white settlement in the 1820s; and

13           WHEREAS, In the spring of 1836, E.R. Starks and Elijah Rich  
14 filed claims to what would become Rutland Township, named after  
15 the Vermont city that had been their home before traveling to  
16 the Illinois frontier; the history of the Village of Gilberts  
17 begins with their official claims on this land; soon, the  
18 Starks, Hills, Moores, Lynches, and McCornack families took up  
19 claims in this township and contributed to the development of  
20 this area; in 1839, Albro Gilberts arrived, establishing his  
21 farm in what is now the center of Gilberts; and

22           WHEREAS, Rutlandville was now flourishing and farming

1 became the way of life with a few businesses opening to serve  
2 the farmers; the first post office was established around this  
3 time approximately 2 miles from Pingree Grove; growth within  
4 Rutlandville was emerging outward from Albro Gilberts' farm and  
5 the culture of this area began to develop; Rutlandville was  
6 noted to be a "Demographic Town", with local chapters of the  
7 Patrons of Husbandry forming and the "grange" becoming an  
8 important part of the social and political life of the area;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A key factor in the growth of the area was its  
11 proximity to the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad, now the  
12 Union Pacific Railroad; around the year 1852, a post office was  
13 established near the railroad station and was named Gilberts  
14 Station; soon after, the surrounding area of this establishment  
15 was also known as Gilberts Station; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1855, Elijah Wilcox, and Andrew Pingree bought  
17 Gilberts' farm and platted the village; because of Albro  
18 Gilberts' great presence and establishment in this area,  
19 Gilberts Station was renamed Gilberts in his honor; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1868, David Haegar, founder of Haegar Pottery,  
21 started construction on what would become the largest tile and  
22 brick factory in Illinois; by 1875, Gilberts was a thriving  
23 community, featuring a train station, 2 blacksmith shops, a

1 steam feed mill, 2 grocery stores, livestock sales barns, a  
2 wagon shop, a drug store, a lumber store, several saloons, a  
3 dance hall, a local jail, 2 milk processing companies, an  
4 elementary school, and the St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran  
5 Church; the Brick and Tile Company was finally completed in  
6 1882 and employed about 20 people; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1890, Gilberts was incorporated as a town with  
8 a board of trustees, a village president, and a local  
9 self-government; and

10 WHEREAS, When the Great Depression hit, life in Gilberts  
11 changed drastically; many businesses went under, causing the  
12 men to look for work outside of the community and leaving the  
13 farmers with no place to shop; the railway trains were also  
14 brought to a standstill, abolishing the transport of milk to  
15 Chicago that was vital to the Village's success; the Village's  
16 misfortunes continued through World War II; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1956, the construction of the  
18 Chicago-Northwest Tollway started a renewal in the Village;  
19 although there was not a direct access to the road, it did spur  
20 interest in further development in Gilberts; in the mid-1960s,  
21 a light industrial manufacturing area was established off of  
22 Route 72 and the core of the village was enhanced by 4 new  
23 subdivisions; by the 1970s, the first industrial park was

1 constructed along the southeast subdivisions and as growth  
2 continued, a second and eventually third industrial park were  
3 established; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the Village of Gilberts continues its  
5 robust growth in population and light industrial  
6 manufacturing, but continues to remain true to its original  
7 identity and character; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
10 congratulate the residents of the Village of Gilberts on the  
11 occasion of the Village's 125th anniversary and wish them  
12 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to the Village of Gilberts as a symbol of our esteem  
16 and respect.