



SJ0063

LRB103 40637 LAW 73338 r

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare May 15,  
6 2024 as Sister City Partnership Day in the State of Illinois in  
7 honor of the 25th anniversary of the West Chicago and  
8 Taufkirchen sister city relationship; and be it further

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