



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois are pleased to recognize milestone events in  
4 the State; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1854, George Hewitt bought the site of the  
6 future Village of Forreston from John Dement of Dixon; the town  
7 was an outgrowth of the Illinois Central Railroad, which had  
8 arrived in the winter of 1854; the first buildings erected were  
9 the depot and a house for boarding railroad employees; and

10 WHEREAS, The first school house in Forreston was a frame  
11 building located in the center of the original town plat,  
12 erected in 1856, and the first teacher was Miss Maria Blair; in  
13 1867, an elegant three-story brick school house was erected on  
14 Front Street at a total cost of \$16,000 including furnishings;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, During the first half of the century, the churches  
17 of Forreston were Methodist Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran,  
18 Zion Reformed United Brethren in Christ, Bishop's Church of  
19 Evangelical Association, Reformed Church, and Church of God;  
20 the principal business interests were six general merchants,  
21 three druggists, two hardwares, five restaurants, three  
22 groceries, seven saloons, four boot and shoe shops, three  
23 harness shops, one furniture, two livery stables, two lumber  
24 and coal, one jeweler, three millinery, one confectionery and  
25 tobacco, two hotels, five physicians, one lawyer, two dentists,  
26 one photograph artist, six carpenters and builders, and four  
27 blacksmiths; and

28 WHEREAS, The village was incorporated on September 21,  
29 1867, with a vote of 128 ballots cast for incorporation and 44  
30 against; the first Sauerkraut Day in the village was held in  
31 1913, with the last celebration held in 1960; it was known as

1 the "World's Largest Single Day Celebration" with attendance in  
2 the 30,000s; and

3 WHEREAS, The Village of Forreston celebrated its 150th  
4 anniversary during the weekend of September 10, 11, and 12,  
5 2004; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
8 congratulate the Village of Forreston on the occasion of its  
9 150th Anniversary; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to the Village of Forreston as an expression of our  
12 respect and esteem and with best wishes for the future success  
13 of Forreston.