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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Village of Palestine has reached its historic bicentennial year; and

WHEREAS, Palestine traces its history to 1678 and Captain John LaMotte, a Frenchman and member of the French LaSalle exploration party; he separated from his group and made his way down the Wabash River; and

WHEREAS, The LaMotte family diary recalls Captain LaMotte's words upon reaching the future Village of Palestine area as "the prairie to the north and the woodland to the south remind me of the land of milk and honey. This must be Palestine!"; and

WHEREAS, Sometime around 1750 a Frenchman named Joseph LaMotte, presumed descendant of Captain LaMotte, operated a trading post on high ground near where LaMotte Creek feeds into the Wabash River, just east of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, Around 1808 settlers began moving into the area; early families included the Eatons, Shaws, Waldrops, McGaheys, Kitchells, Brimberrys, Lagows, Newlins, Woodworths, Culloms, Houstons, Woods, Kennedys, Van Winkles, Parkers, and Garrards; and

1           WHEREAS, By 1811 the bustling community was called LaMotte  
2           Settlement, and oral tradition maintains that it received its  
3           Land Charter on February 18th, 1811; the Settlement looked to  
4           the city of Vincennes, Indiana for early guidance, especially  
5           when hostilities erupted with Indian tribes and Fort LaMotte  
6           was constructed; and

7           WHEREAS, During 1816 Edward Cullom and Joseph Kitchell  
8           decided that the area should be better organized, with streets,  
9           lots, and a public square; after purchasing property and  
10          donating many acres, the layout of the community was  
11          established; and

12          WHEREAS, For a brief time the Settlement's name was changed  
13          to Mount Pleasant, but people remembered the story of Captain  
14          LaMotte's words and by 1818 the name "Palestine" was chosen;  
15          and

16          WHEREAS, The oldest settled community in Illinois, the  
17          historic Village of Palestine continues into the present as a  
18          solid community with more than 1,300 people, including some 625  
19          households and 400 families, residing in the Village;  
20          therefore, be it

21          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we congratulate the people of the Village of Palestine on this  
3 momentous occasion and wish them a long and prosperous future  
4 in the years to come; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to Mayor Patricia Schofield on behalf of the people  
7 of the Village of Palestine.