



HR1330

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1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, On April 10, 1816, in a log cabin now known as the  
3 Robinson Stewart House, a town was born; the leaders decided to  
4 call the new county seat Carmi, a name mentioned eight times in  
5 Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Joshua, and First Chronicles; and

6           WHEREAS, Carmi was a log cabin village founded on the bank  
7 of the Little Wabash River; there were no streets - only dirt  
8 roads; the village had promise of beauty and gracious living  
9 even in a backwoods settlement; and

10           WHEREAS, Many came to Carmi from Virginia and the  
11 Carolinas, where they had been accustomed to stately houses and  
12 appreciated good architecture, art, literature, and music;  
13 Carmi grew fast and settlers poured in; more and more cabins  
14 were built and the town was thriving; by 1818, White County was  
15 the third most populous county in the State; and

16           WHEREAS, The Little Wabash River which flows through Carmi  
17 once marked the dividing line between the forest and the  
18 prairie; and

19           WHEREAS, As the early settlers of White County poured into  
20 the area, a mill on the river became the first business in town  
21 to serve early farmers; today, Carmi continues to serve the

1 agriculture industry; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the majority of farmers plant grain, corn,  
3 soybeans, and wheat; there are also a growing number of farmers  
4 who are turning to vegetable and specialty crops and a growing  
5 number of farmers raising livestock; and

6 WHEREAS, Each year, more than \$42.5 million of crops and  
7 \$4.5 million of livestock and livestock products are produced  
8 and sold from White County; all of this is produced on 188,400  
9 acres of cropland or 234,900 acres of total farmland, which is  
10 controlled and operated by 448 farms; and

11 WHEREAS, Farming is a major source of income in White  
12 County, but agricultural-related employment with fertilizer  
13 companies, grain elevators, implement dealers, seed dealers,  
14 accounting firms specializing in farm accounting, high school  
15 agriculture teachers, and many other areas of agriculture still  
16 provide most of the area's jobs; and

17 WHEREAS, Agriculture is a cherished way of life for people  
18 in White County and it provides a natural place to raise a  
19 family and enjoy the harmonious relationship between nature and  
20 the industrialized world; and

21 WHEREAS, Carmi is a community built on farming and

1 continues to reap the rewards of strong agricultural tradition;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, One of Carmi's most famous visitors was Abraham  
4 Lincoln, who visited the community to speak at a political  
5 rally in 1840 and stayed in the building now known as the  
6 Ratcliff Inn, which is a part of the White County Historical  
7 Society; and

8 WHEREAS, The area was rich in natural resources and early  
9 settlers used the river for transportation; the oil business in  
10 Carmi goes back to 1939 with the discovery of the first oil  
11 well in the area; nearly 75 years later, White County has  
12 produced over a quarter million barrels of oil per year and  
13 remains one of the top three oil producing counties in the  
14 State of Illinois; it is still a hub of the industry for the  
15 location of service companies; and

16 WHEREAS, The growth of the oil service industry is  
17 expanding the services already offered, from drilling and  
18 completion rigs, pulling units, supply companies, acidizing  
19 and stimulation, cased hole logging and perforating, drill pipe  
20 and casing inspection, coring services, down hole completion  
21 tools, rock bit services, down hole production chemical  
22 services, and injection pump and valve repair; and

1           WHEREAS, With a new facility that increases the reserves of  
2 obtainable coal by 140 million tons, White County Coal is  
3 positioned to aggressively develop new markets and additional  
4 services and to establish itself as the supplier of choice for  
5 customers, including services such as ash and scrubber  
6 disposal; and

7           WHEREAS, A surprising amount of Carmi history, including  
8 the Webb-Hay House, the Old Graveyard, Robinson Stewart House,  
9 the Ratcliff Inn, and the L. Haas Store Museum, still stands  
10 downtown; and

11           WHEREAS, Carmi takes pride in the tranquil beauty  
12 throughout the town, the dedication of its loyal citizens, the  
13 outstanding school system, and the continued success of the  
14 business community; and

15           WHEREAS, To commemorate Carmi's 200th birthday, 200 native  
16 trees have been planted to help beautify the town for future  
17 generations; and

18           WHEREAS, Carmi's bicentennial festivities planned  
19 throughout the year include Memorial Day, July 4th, Corn Day,  
20 and the It's a White County Christmas celebration in November;  
21 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           congratulate Mayor Jeff Pollard and the citizens of Carmi as  
4           they celebrate the 200th anniversary of their community and  
5           wish them many more years of success and prosperity in the  
6           future; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8           presented to the Mayor of Carmi as a symbol of our respect and  
9           esteem.