



HR0361

LRB104 13731 MST 26453 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate WJOL Radio on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, WJOL Radio traces its roots to the early days of radio broadcasting as WJBI and WCLS when on June 9, 1925, a group of Joliet's elite turned on the 100 watt WJBI at 1400 kHz; and

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WHEREAS, WJOL Radio began with Madame Gertrude Wagner Gaume singing *The Lass With The Delicate Air*, followed by an address by Thomas Donovan, Joliet's fire and police commissioner; and

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WHEREAS, WJOL Radio was first operated by local amateur radio operator Harold Couch and was originally transmitted from Couch's home on Summit Street; and

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WHEREAS, WJOL Radio continued to grow throughout the 1930s, featuring community programming, local news, and sports, and by 1940, it had established itself as a popular local station; and

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WHEREAS, WJOL Radio hired St. Louis sportscaster Harry

1 Carabina in 1940 and suggested he change his name to the far
2 easier to pronounce Harry Caray, who spent the next two years
3 at the station as the sports and special-events announcer
4 before moving on to a Kalamazoo station and then becoming the
5 voice of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1945; and

6 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio shifted to its current dial position
7 at 1340 kHz on March 29, 1941; and

8 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio featured a full service format of
9 popular music, local news, sports, and civic affairs
10 throughout the 1940s and 1950s; and

11 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio was ranked as one of the most listened
12 to and profitable suburban Chicago radio operations through
13 the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s; and

14 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio dominated all other local stations,
15 even drawing bigger audiences in Will County than the nearby
16 Chicago powerhouse stations; and

17 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio left the aging Walnut Avenue studios
18 for a new state of the art building on Caton Farm Road in Crest
19 Hill in August of 2000; and

20 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio, The Voice of Joliet, continues to

1 spotlight news, people, and events in one of the most rapidly
2 growing areas in Chicagoland; along with hosting a high school
3 basketball tournament for 30 years, a baseball tournament for
4 20 years, and a softball tournament for six years, it has been
5 the home of professional baseball as the flagship station for
6 the Joliet Jackhammers since 2001, and now, the Joliet
7 Slammers, Lewis University basketball, and a full schedule of
8 high school football, basketball, and baseball games are aired
9 on the station; and

10 WHEREAS, WJOL Radio continues to innovate and break new
11 ground to connect with its listeners after 100 years;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we congratulate WJOL Radio on the 100th anniversary of its
16 founding, and we wish it many more wonderful years; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to WJOL Radio as a symbol of our respect and esteem.