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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, The aviation pioneer Walter T. Varney began providing air transport of mail service on April 6, 1926, and this is considered one of the foundational pillars of modern commercial air service; and

WHEREAS, Walter Varney, the proprietor of Varney Air Service, was involved in a consolidation of various companies, and those companies organized to become what is now known as United Airlines; and

WHEREAS, Boeing Air Transport, a subsidiary that evolved into the entity that became United Airlines, was the first to employ a "flying nurse"; in 1930, Ellen Church, a licensed pilot and nurse, was the founder of the "sky girls", women hired to calm sick and frightened passengers; in addition to providing nursing while onboard, the sky girls loaded luggage, helped fuel the plane, and collected tickets; the sky girls are the forerunners to today's flight attendants who are essential safety professionals aboard every commercial flight; and

1 WHEREAS, United Airlines was the first to operate the
2 Boeing 247 in 1933, and the operation of this aircraft made
3 coast to coast service possible in less than 20 hours; and

4 WHEREAS, United Airlines has long been committed to
5 excellent customer service, including opening the world's
6 first flight kitchen in 1936; and

7 WHEREAS, United Airlines has long been committed to the
8 use of technology to improve training and operations; it was
9 the first airline to train pilots on electronic flight
10 simulators in 1954 and the first airline to use an operational
11 jet bridge in 1958; and

12 WHEREAS, United Airlines was the first to fly both the
13 Boeing 767 and 777, the cornerstones of twin-engine wide body
14 service; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1984, United Airlines was the first domestic
16 carrier to fly to all 50 states and used the moniker, "First to
17 Fifty", to celebrate this feat; and

18 WHEREAS, After showing commitment to connecting all 50
19 states, United Airlines partnered with international carriers
20 to create the first global airline alliance, Star Alliance,

1 which today has 25 airline members and provides service to
2 more than 190 countries and more than 1,100 airports; and

3 WHEREAS, United Airlines continuously shows its commitment
4 and leadership on environmental issues; in 2021, it was the
5 first airline to fly passengers with 100% sustainable aviation
6 fuel (SAF); and

7 WHEREAS, As United Airlines continues to connect people
8 and unite the world, it does so by keeping people connected
9 throughout their travels; it is the first major U.S. airline
10 to roll out Starlink, which provides the same high speed,
11 low-latency internet service in the air as internet customers
12 enjoy on the ground; and

13 WHEREAS, United Airlines is the first to fly 1,000
14 mainline aircraft, which makes it the world's largest airline;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, United Airlines is headquartered in Chicago and
17 proudly employs more than 18,000 people in the local area;
18 entities which later became United Airlines have served
19 Chicago since 1927, and this includes service at Chicago
20 Municipal Airport, which later became Midway, and later
21 Chicago O'Hare International Airport; and

1 WHEREAS, United Airlines recently announced more than 750
2 flights to serve O'Hare International Airport, including
3 year-round service to multiple international locations,
4 including London, Paris, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Brussels, Munich,
5 Amsterdam, Zurich, Sao Paul, Dublin, and Tel Aviv, which is
6 further evidence of its commitment to connecting people and
7 uniting the world, showing why it has earned the nickname of
8 Chicago's Hometown Airline; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate United Airlines on its 100th anniversary and
12 express our gratitude for its century of service; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to United Airlines as a symbol of our respect and
16 esteem.