



HR0933

LRB104 22076 ECR 38218 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend the City of Crest Hill on the
4 occasion of the 84th anniversary of the dedication of the
5 Lidice Memorial; and

6 WHEREAS, Lidice was a small Czechoslovakian village
7 located in the region of Bohemia and Moravia, formerly
8 occupied by Nazi Germany during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, Reinhard Heydrich, a high-ranking Nazi official,
10 was killed as the result of a top-secret British and
11 Czechoslovak operation in June 1942; and

12 WHEREAS, In retaliation for the assassination and as a
13 result of false accusations leveled against two local
14 families, Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler ordered the total
15 annihilation of Lidice as collective punishment on June 9,
16 1942; and

17 WHEREAS, On that evening, Nazi forces entered Lidice,
18 separating the men and boys over the age of 15 from the women
19 and remaining children; the 173 men and boys were held in farm
20 buildings and, at 7:00 a.m. on June 10, were shot by an
21 execution squad in groups of ten; and

1 WHEREAS, An additional 20 townspeople were rounded up from
2 work and sent to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where they were
3 executed at a shooting range; and

4 WHEREAS, The women of Lidice were shipped to the
5 Ravensbrück concentration camp, the largest concentration camp
6 for women within Germany's pre-war borders, where they endured
7 forced labor, medical experimentation, and execution in gas
8 chambers; and

9 WHEREAS, The children of Lidice suffered a harrowing fate,
10 being deported to Lodz, Poland to be evaluated for potential
11 "Germanization" under Nazi racial laws; nine children were
12 selected for "Germanization" through the Lebensborn Program,
13 while approximately 80 other children deemed unsuitable were
14 brutally murdered, believed by historians to have been
15 executed in a gas chamber at the Chelmno killing center; the 14
16 youngest infants and babies were placed in orphanages, with
17 only eight surviving the war; and

18 WHEREAS, The entire village and landscape of Lidice was
19 ploughed flat by the Nazis, and its destruction was broadcast
20 to the world as propaganda; and

21 WHEREAS, Adolf Hitler's attempt at total elimination

1 instead transformed Lidice and the story of its people into an
2 international symbol of resistance against Nazi brutality and
3 depravity that endures to this day; and

4 WHEREAS, Just two days after the horrific brutality
5 against the people of Lidice began, Dominic Romano, developer
6 of what was then known as the Stern Park subdivision, became
7 the first person in the world to rename his development after
8 Lidice in honor of the martyred village, dedicating it on July
9 12, 1942, establishing a monument, and later rededicating it
10 during a visit by exiled Czechoslovakian President Edvard
11 Benes in May 1943; and

12 WHEREAS, The town of Lidice, Illinois was incorporated
13 into the City of Crest Hill in 1960, establishing an enduring
14 bond as Lidice's sister city; and

15 WHEREAS, Following the destruction of the original
16 monument by vandals in 1995, a larger granite monument, plaza,
17 and park were built through the generosity of the
18 Czechoslovakian American Congress and global donations, and
19 the memorial was subsequently enhanced through the
20 multigenerational volunteerism of Crest Hill mayors and
21 elected officials, local businesses, Eagle Scouts, and civic
22 organizations; and

1 WHEREAS, In unity with the Park of Peace and Friendship in
2 Lidice, Czech Republic, the City of Crest Hill planted 82 rose
3 bushes to mirror the village's thousands of roses, explicitly
4 honoring the memory of the 82 innocent children of Lidice who
5 were slain; and

6 WHEREAS, Located at Hosmer Lane and Prairie Avenue, the
7 Lidice Memorial stands today as a jewel of Crest Hill and as a
8 vital destination stop for visitors along U.S. Route 66,
9 serving as a critical demonstration of unity and resistance to
10 tyranny for Czechoslovakians, veterans, Jewish people, and the
11 many peoples who suffered under Nazi depravity; therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
14 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we commend the City of Crest Hill on the 84-year anniversary of
16 the dedication of the Lidice Memorial, and we express our
17 deepest gratitude to Crest Hill and its residents for their
18 multigenerational dedication to maintaining such a worthy,
19 globally-recognized endeavor; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That we urge remembrance of the martyred Village
21 of Lidice by Illinoisans, Americans, and people across the
22 world as a moment in history that should never be forgotten;
23 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Mayor Raymond R. Soliman of the City of Crest Hill
3 as a symbol of our esteem and respect.