



HR0447

LRB102 19973 ECR 28757 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Altamont is a city in Effingham County with a population of 2,319 as of the 2010 census and is located along Interstate 70 and U.S. Route 40 (The Cumberland Road); and

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WHEREAS, Altamont was settled by German immigrants from the banks of the Rhine River, who came through Pennsylvania and Ohio; agriculture is a prominent industry with a good mix of manufacturing employment in Altamont; and

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WHEREAS, Altamont, the "City of Plain", was chartered in Mound Township and got its name from J.W. Conlogue, a Latin language romantic, because of the elevation or "mound" that lies northwest; "alta" means altitude or height, and "mont" means mound; and

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WHEREAS, At 23 years old, Dr. Charles M. Wright came to Effingham County in 1857; the town of Altamont was organized in 1871, and Dr. Charles M. Wright purchased five acres from the Vandalia Railroad and built a home in 1874 at 3 West Jackson Street, which was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1986; he established the C.M. Wright & Co. private bank in his former medical building in Altamont in 1878; and

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1           WHEREAS, The Altamont Living Museum is housed in the  
2 former First Presbyterian Church of Altamont; the church was  
3 declared organized with a congregation of 30 charter members  
4 on February 16, 1913; and

5           WHEREAS, Altamont is home to the Effingham County Fair and  
6 the Wolf Family Farm of Mound Township; the farm was  
7 established on September 30, 1869 and is designated a  
8 sesquicentennial farm by the Illinois Department of  
9 Agriculture; and

10           WHEREAS, Altamont is home to the Annual Mill Road  
11 Thresherman's Association Steam, Gas & Threshing Show; and

12           WHEREAS, Local legend states that Griffin Tipsword, whose  
13 original family name was Souards, came to the Altamont, Mound  
14 Township area first; living with the Kickapoo Native  
15 Americans, he was a pioneer, a missionary preacher, a hunter,  
16 and a medicine man; he was a veteran of the Revolutionary War  
17 who first fought at Ramsour's Mill in the Carolinas; he died in  
18 1845 and was buried on the banks of Wolf Creek in the Tipsword  
19 family cemetery in Effingham; and

20           WHEREAS, A trading center called Montville had existed on  
21 the bank of the creek south of what is now Altamont but was  
22 then called Southmore Heights; the Southmore Heights

1 postmaster was G.H. Milleville, and in 1871, the post office  
2 moved to this new place called Altamont, which was officially  
3 organized as a town in 1871; and

4 WHEREAS, On August 8, 1872, Altamont adopted the village  
5 form of government with a mayor and four council members; on  
6 April 16, 1901, the Altamont voters adopted a city form of  
7 government and became the City of Altamont; and

8 WHEREAS, Altamont is home to the Effingham County  
9 Fairgrounds, where the Effingham County Fair has been held  
10 annually in the first week of August since 1945; the Effingham  
11 County Fair hosts nationally known country singers, a touring  
12 rodeo, ITPA truck and tractor pulls, a queen pageant, a talent  
13 show, Standardbred and Thoroughbred races, and a demolition  
14 derby; the fairgrounds were once host to the Illinois High  
15 School rodeo finals and currently host the Mill Road  
16 Thresherman's gathering and the annual Schutzenfest; and

17 WHEREAS, Altamont is home to the Ballard Nature Center;  
18 the nature preserve and educational center consists of 217  
19 acres and is located east of town; it includes 107 acres of  
20 woodland, 15 acres of restored prairie, 10 acres of shallow  
21 water wetlands, and 85 acres of agricultural land for  
22 educational programs and the enjoyment of families and  
23 visitors; Ernie Ballard donated 210 acres for the site of a

1 nature center and the funds to construct a visitor center; in  
2 2014, the Glen Mathias family donated another 7 acres of land  
3 adjacent to the original 210 acres; and

4 WHEREAS, Altamont Lutheran Interparish School (ALIS) is a  
5 private school that serves grades K-8; the cornerstone reads  
6 "Immanuel Lutheran School 1959", but the school is now a joint  
7 effort of Immanuel, Bethlehem, St. Paul (Blue Point), and Zion  
8 Lutheran Churches; and

9 WHEREAS, The Altamont Living Museum is a not-for-profit  
10 organization and offers many forms of entertainment, including  
11 award winning performers, plays performed by local theater  
12 troupe A.C.T. and Altamont High school students,  
13 country/bluegrass variety shows on Tuesday nights, and  
14 memorabilia exhibits on display for visitors' enjoyment; the  
15 Altamont Living Museum building was a church built in the late  
16 1800s that still has all of its original stained glass  
17 windows, wooden pews, wood floors, antique tin patterned  
18 ceiling, and lighting fixtures; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we congratulate the City of Altamont on the occasion of its  
22 150th year; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the City of Altamont as an expression of our  
3 esteem and respect.