



HR0888

LRB103 42430 ECR 75660 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate West Suburban Irish on its more than three decades of honoring Irish culture; and

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WHEREAS, West Suburban Irish is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with the mission of cultivating a genuine appreciation and understanding of Irish heritage, culture, language, music, art, literature, and sports across the communities in the western suburbs of Chicago; the organization was founded after Naperville resident Kevin Dolan organized Naperville's first St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1993; and

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WHEREAS, West Suburban Irish has grown its St. Patrick's Day Parade into a large community event that celebrates Irish culture within Naperville and offers opportunities for other community organizations to showcase their members, hosting over 90 organizations and 3,000 individual participants and drawing 15,000 spectators; and

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WHEREAS, West Suburban Irish is also known for its Naperville Irish Fest, an annual, two-day festival that features events honoring the organization's Irish roots, including traditional Irish dancers and bagpipers, while sharing Ireland's rich culture with over 3,000 attendees; the

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1 festival also hosts a number of children's activities, such as  
2 a photo opportunity with a leprechaun and a children's parade;  
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4 WHEREAS, West Suburban Irish remains committed to honoring  
5 Irish heritage through its Naperville Irish Fest while  
6 providing attendees with an accessible local festival that  
7 gives back to the community, with proceeds going to a number of  
8 local charities, including the Institute of Traditional Irish  
9 Music, the Naperville Area Humane Society, and Loaves & Fishes  
10 Community Services; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we congratulate West Suburban Irish on its more than three  
14 decades of honoring Irish culture; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we commend the organizers, volunteers, and  
16 performers of the Naperville Irish Fest for their continued  
17 efforts to enrich, enlighten, and uplift all of Naperville's  
18 residents and guests with cultural exhibits, dances, and  
19 activities; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to West Suburban Irish as a symbol of our esteem and  
22 respect.