

As Adopted by the Senate

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. R. No. 240

Senators O'Brien, Cirino

A RESOLUTION

Honoring The Great Geauga County Fair on its Bicentennial.

WHEREAS, The members of the Senate of the 134th General Assembly of Ohio are pleased to pay tribute to The Great Geauga County Fair on the auspicious occasion of its Two Hundredth Anniversary, celebrated August 31-September 5, 2022; and

WHEREAS, In 1798, the families of the earliest settlers of Burton in Geauga County began holding yearly jollifications based on the early fairs of Europe, and due to widespread public interest and participation, the Geauga County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society was formed in February 1823 to organize and promote the annual event to showcase agricultural products and farm labor-saving devices as well as to celebrate bountiful harvests and economic independence. The society's first Geauga County Fair was held in Chardon on October 23, 1823, making it the oldest continuous county fair in Ohio and one of the oldest in the nation, and "Great" was later added to its name to signify this status. The fair alternated between Burton and Chardon for several years, including being held at least once in Painesville, until permanent fairgrounds were established in Burton in the mid-1800s, and several buildings from the nineteenth century still exist, including two that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, For the past two centuries, local citizens have gathered annually at The Great Geauga County Fair to enjoy such diverse and exciting activities as 4-H competitions, harness racing, concerts, art exhibitions, livestock auctions, rides, food and games, and horse and tractor pulls, events that are unique to county fairs and festivals. The friendliness and neighborly atmosphere of the fair have certainly distinguished it as one of Ohio's finest summer celebrations; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Geauga County has benefited from a 28
generous and civic-minded population, and the many individuals who 29
have worked so diligently to ensure the success of The Great Geauga 30
County Fair have displayed a commendable spirit of cooperation and 31
commitment. The optimism and determination found among the area's 32
citizens are deserving of high praise, and the fair provides them with 33
a special opportunity to further demonstrate their community pride; 34
therefore be it 35

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 134th General 36
Assembly of Ohio, in adopting this Resolution, congratulate The Great 37
Gauga County Fair on its Two Hundredth Anniversary and extend best 38
wishes for the future; and be it further 39

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit a duly 40
authenticated copy of this Resolution to The Great Geauga County Fair. 41