



For Immediate Release

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Media Advisory: Illinois Chamber of Commerce receives Quincy proclamation celebrating 100-year anniversary

Quincy, IL– Quincy Mayor Kyle Moore celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the special role Quincy played in the formation of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce with a proclamation recognizing today as 'Quincy Chamber Day'.

Quincy business leaders had a major role in calling for and forming the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. In June 1919, Quincy hosted delegates from around the state to adopt the Illinois Chamber of Commerce constitution and elect its chairman, secretary and first Board of Directors.

"Since our founding, Quincy has been an important contributor to the business environment in Illinois," said Quincy Mayor Kyle Moore. "Today, we honor the founding of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the partnership between the Chamber and our city. The delegates attending the 1919 convention would be proud that one hundred years later, the Chamber still plays a vital role in Illinois and is a strong partner of the City of Quincy."

Following the work in Quincy, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce was then ratified by the Secretary of State of Illinois on August 2, 1919, and published the first *Illinois Journal of Commerce* a few months later.

"The Chamber is very honored to receive this recognition from Mayor Moore and support from the Quincy community including Senator Tracy, Representative Frese, and Executive Director Block," said Illinois Chamber President and CEO Todd Maisch. "Quincy helped bring together communities across the state, and, along with Chicago, Joliet and Peoria, formed a truly statewide organization. Given the size and diversity of Illinois this was quite a feat."

The Illinois Chamber has been a driving force in the state's development for a century. It was a major force in the formation of the Illinois State Police, lead the initial enactment of

State Planning Commission, spearheaded efforts to establish an appointed State Board of Education, and developed the first political action committee in Illinois.

"The Illinois Chamber is a strong voice and wealth of knowledge for Illinois business," said Illinois State Senator Jil Tracy (R-Quincy). "I've valued their input and expertise over the course of my time in the legislature. It's a special honor that, as the Illinois Chamber celebrates 100 years in Illinois, we have our current president and CEO in Quincy to mark this milestone and celebrate that the first chamber began right here in Quincy."

Besides legislative affairs and grassroots advocacy, the Illinois Chamber also has a vital business services division that works with member and local chambers to provide seminars, webinars, forums and events in communities around the state.

"Our local businesses are the cornerstone of our communities," said Illinois State Representative Randy Frese (R-Paloma). "We're all grateful that for 100 years the Illinois Chamber of Commerce has been fighting for the very jobs and economic growth that support our families and help our communities thrive. I am very proud that the Chamber got its start right here in Quincy, and I am proud to fight alongside them for a better Illinois."

While the Illinois Chamber has evolved over the years, the organization continues to embody the founding principals of the encouraging economic development of the state to create stronger business and a stronger Illinois.

"It is an honor to celebrate the Illinois Chamber's 100th year," said Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Latonya Brock. "The Illinois Chamber remains true to advocating for business and being one of the leaders that support policies enhancing and protecting the state's economy."

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