



# Proclamation

- Whereas**, the first settlement in the vicinity of Washington was made in 1825, by William Holland, Sr., who came from Fort Clark in Peoria and was employed by the United States government as a blacksmith for Native Americans who lived in the area. The area was first referred to as Hollands Grove; and
- Whereas**, in 1834 William Holland, Sr., laid out the original town of Washington, which presently lies east of Main Street and was heavily timbered, which was used to build many of the first structures; and
- Whereas**, in 1849 William and Jane Holland, and David and Hannah Kyes donated property, known as Glendale Cemetery, to be used as a public cemetery which has grown to 33.5 acres; and
- Whereas**, land, timber, grain, coal, and stock businesses were responsible for the wealth of early Washington; and
- Whereas**, in 1847 young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln defended two Underground Railroad conductors from Washington and Metamora in the Tazewell County Courthouse, which resulted in the dismissal of their charges; and
- Whereas**, in 1903 the Washington's Historic Square was paved with brick, a new water fountain was installed in the center of the Square and a bandstand was dedicated to its residents; and
- Whereas**, the city of Washington held a Centennial celebration in August of 1925. It was estimated that tens of thousands of people attended including Congressmen, Senators and a telegram from the President of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was read; and
- Whereas**, in 2007 Washington opened a community center focused on the well-being of its residents by uniting five individual organizations including the City of Washington, the Washington Library, the Washington Park District, Washington Community High School and the Washington Community Center; and
- Whereas**, Washington endured a defining moment when a devastating EF4 tornado impacted 1,108 homes and businesses in 2013, demonstrating the resilience and determination of our citizens, as our city recovered, rebuilt, and emerged stronger; and
- Whereas**, Washington will celebrate its Bicentennial with special events to take place August 14th through August 23rd, 2025; and

**Now, therefore,**

I Gary W. Manier, Mayor of the City of Washington, Illinois, do hereby proclaim, 2025, as:

**“Washington Illinois’ Bicentennial Year”**

And urge the residents of our community, and surrounding area to join in honoring the legacy of our founder, our resilience through adversity, and the bright future that lies ahead.

**Proclaimed this 3rd day of February, 2025**

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Gary W. Manier, Mayor

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ATTEST: Valeri L Brod, City Clerk