

Proclamation

175th Anniversary of the I&M Canal Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area

The I&M Canal opened in 1848 to connect the American heartland to New York Harbor in the east, and to New Orleans in the south, by water; thereby extending the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. This water highway became an important transportation corridor, enhancing commerce trading. It brought people and capital to Illinois, and was instrumental in the development of the towns along its waterway.

WHEREAS; The I&M Canal, upon completion, linked the Illinois River with Lake Michigan; finalizing an all-water route from New York to New Orleans and establishing a water highway to the west, and;

WHEREAS; The 96-mile I&M Canal ushered in a new era in trade and travel, and set the stage for Illinois to become our nation's most populous inland empire and home to the nation's greatest inland port, and;

WHEREAS; The I&M Canal gave birth to the growth of the Illinois cities of Chicago, Lemont, Crest Hill, Lockport, Seneca, Channahon, Utica, Joliet, Ottawa, Morris, LaSalle-Peru, and;

WHEREAS; The Illinois & Michigan Canal was designated as an National Historic Landmark in 1963 and our Nation's First National Heritage Area in 1984; and the Canal Corridor Association designated the coordinating entity for the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area in 2006 and the City of Crest Hill is within its boundaries designated by the US Congress;

WHEREAS; Today visitors, residents, and school children can visit the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Area from Chicago to Peru and enjoy the historic, cultural, and natural resources, including its many trails, prairies, historic canal towns, museums, attractions, and festivals, such as experiencing a ride on a mule-pulled canal boat;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Raymond R. Soliman, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Crest Hill, do hereby proclaim April 2023 to April 2024 as the

YEAR OF THE I&M CANAL

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Corporate Seal of the City of Crest Hill this 20th day of March, 2023.


Raymond R. Soliman, Mayor

