

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE GREAT STATE OF WISCONSIN, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS FOR THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT DURING OUR FIRST 150 YEARS.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL THIS YEAR, WE WANT TO REACH OUT TO OUR FRIENDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

EVERY YEAR, I LEAD A HARLEY RIDE ACROSS WISCONSIN TO PROMOTE OUR STATE AND HONOR THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOTORCYCLE. WE'RE PROUD TO BE HOME TO THE HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE COMPANY.

THIS YEAR, I DECIDED TO TAKE THE HARLEY RIDE TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AS A WAY TO ENCOURAGE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO JOIN WISCONSIN IN CELEBRATING OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL.

THE HARLEY RIDE WILL CULMINATE ON JUNE 24 WHEN WE ROAR DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE TO THE NATIONAL MALL, WHERE WE WILL KICK OFF THE SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL, WHICH IS FEATURING WISCONSIN IN HONOR OF OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL.

ALONG THE WAY, WE ARE STOPPING IN AS MANY STATE CAPITOLS AS POSSIBLE TO THANK THE GOOD PEOPLE WHO HAVE STOOD ALONGSIDE WISCONSIN AND SHARED WITH US THEIR FRIENDSHIP.

AND OUR TWO STATES HAVE A FEW THINGS IN COMMON.

- **BY 1870, CHICAGO FAMILIES HAD TURNED THE LAKE GENEVA AREA OF WISCONSIN INTO A THRIVING RESORT.....AND LAKE GENEVA SERVED AS A HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME FOR THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR HOMES IN THE GREAT CHICAGO FIRE OF 1871. THEY SIMPLY MOVED TO LAKE GENEVA UNTIL THEIR NEW HOMES WERE COMPLETED. AND THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT STARTED THE TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF ILLINOIS RESIDENTS TRAVELING TO WISCONSIN DURING THE SUMMER**

I LOVE TO SEE THOSE LONG LINES OF ILLINOIS CARS COMING INTO WISCONSIN ON FRIDAY NIGHTS AND SATURDAY MORNINGS.

- **AND WHILE ABRAHAM LINCOLN WAS BORN IN ILLINOIS, HE OFTEN CAME TO BELOIT. HE ALSO FOUGHT IN THE BLACKHAWK WAR IN WISCONSIN IN 1832.....AND DOCUMENTS SHOW THAT ABE PRACTICED LAW IN SOUTHERN WISCONSIN.**
- **RIGHT HERE IN SPRINGFIELD IS THE DANA-THOMAS HOUSE DESIGNED BY ONE OF OUR MOST FAMOUS SONS – FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, WHO WAS VERY FOND OF ILLINOIS AND DID QUITE A BIT OF WORK IN THIS STATE.**
- **AND WHILE THE CHICAGO BEARS ARE OUR HEATED RIVALS, THEY ARE ACTUALLY GOOD BEARS TWO MONTHS OF THE YEAR – JULY AND AUGUST WHEN THEY TRAIN IN PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN.**

WHILE THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FRIENDLY RIVALRY BETWEEN WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS, IT'S BECAUSE WE ARE SUCH GREAT FRIENDS.

WE ARE THE SHINING STARS OF THE MIDWEST, FULL OF HARD-WORKING, FUN-LOVING PEOPLE

**WHO TREASURE THEIR FAMILIES AND VALUE A
HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE.**

**THANK YOU, ILLINOIS, FOR BEING OUR FRIENDS
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MAKING THAT
FRIENDSHIP EVEN STRONGER IN THE NEXT 150
YEARS.**

(PRESENT GOVERNOR JIM EDGAR WITH GIFTS)