Relating to: commemorating the centennial anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Lena, Wisconsin.

Whereas, Swiss immigrant Étienne Clement Roserens (Rosera) and his wife Vitaline (née Tessier) established a homestead in October 1872 on the land that is now the Village of Lena; and

Whereas, other settlers, most of whom were French-Canadian, arrived and settled on the land in the late 1870s; and

Whereas, the original homesteaders’ only access to their land was by a 13-mile logging trail from Oconto, Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the settlers referred to the land as Maple Valley due to the impressive stands of maple trees, which the settlers harvested for syrup; and

Whereas, by 1879, the settlement had grown large enough to require a post office; and

Whereas, George R. Hall was named postmaster and named the new post office and village after his fiancée, Helena “Lena” Louisa McCartney; and
Whereas, the Milwaukee and Northern Railway Company extended its main line through Lena in 1882; and

Whereas, the settlement grew rapidly after the arrival of the railroad, with a blacksmith shop opening in 1882, a general store and hotel opening in 1883, and telephone lines arriving in 1890; and

Whereas, the Village of Lena was incorporated in 1921; and

Whereas, since 1985, the village has celebrated Dairyfest, with festivities including a parade, tractor pull, and five kilometer walk-run; and

Whereas, Lena is home to the former Frigo Cheese Company, now part of Saputo Cheese USA, Oconto County’s largest employer; and

Whereas, Lena offers small-town charm and amenities only a half-hour drive from Green Bay; and

Whereas, the citizens of Lena plan to celebrate the village’s centennial from December 2021 through fall 2022; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, That the members of the Wisconsin Assembly do hereby recognize 2021 as the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Lena, Wisconsin; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to the clerk of the Village of Lena, the clerk of Oconto County, and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

(END)