



# PROCLAMATION



## Celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Joseph F. Glidden's "The Winner" Barbed Wire Patent

**WHEREAS**, in 1873, farmer Joseph F. Glidden, hardware merchant Isaac Ellwood and carpenter Jacob Haish crafted the idea for barbed wire fencing upon witnessing a fence board with projecting wire points; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 24, 1874, Glidden received the patent for his design, called "The Winner," which is considered the wire that fenced the West; and

**WHEREAS**, barbed wire played a significant role in fencing the American west; it was popular due to its durability and affordability. The significance of this creation and its manufacture in DeKalb prompted its creators to reinvest in the growing city; the barbed wire barons allowed the railroad to travel through DeKalb, brought the first hospital and library buildings, and encouraged Northern Illinois State Normal School to be built here, which is today's Northern Illinois University. Glidden donated his own farmland for the school to be built upon; and

**WHEREAS**, due to this invention and its incredible success, DeKalb earned the moniker "Barb City," and the high school students are known as "Barbs"; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the J.F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center in DeKalb is proud to preserve the site where Glidden initially used hairpins and a grindstone to make barbed wire. Two of the campus buildings, the historic house and barn, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Cohen Barnes, as Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby join the Joseph F. Glidden Homestead and Historical Center in celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the barbed wire patent and encourage all citizens to visit the Barbed Wire Expo at Northern Illinois University's Altgeld Hall during the Barbed Wire Weekend from September 27 through September 29, 2024, where an extensive collection of barbed wire collections will be on display along with history demonstrations. More information can be found at [www.barbedwireweekend.com](http://www.barbedwireweekend.com).

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of DeKalb to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.



**COHEN BARNES**  
Mayor