

# MONMOUTH ILLINOIS

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the City of Monmouth was the lifelong home of internationally renowned illusionist William Mozart Nicol, also known as The Great Nicola; and

**WHEREAS**, The Great Nicola was a talented inventor and showman who devised innovative apparatuses in his Monmouth workshop that inspired the grand stage illusions performed by today's most celebrated magicians; and

**WHEREAS**, The Great Nicola was an internationally known celebrity who, despite touring world capitals and befriending royalty, chose to maintain his primary residence in Monmouth, Illinois, which he believed offered a quality of life lacking in metropolitan centers; and

**WHEREAS**, Monmouth is the burial place of not only The Great Nicola, but also his father and mentor, John Nicol, who performed as Nicoli; his magician brother, Charles, who performed as Von Arx and Chasan; his wife, Marion, who was his valued partner on stage; and his pet elephant, Nizie, used in one of his most famous stage illusions; and

**WHEREAS**, Monmouth was also the home of the LaWain House of Magic, a national supply house for magic supplies, operated by professional magicians Jack Wain (the Mysterious LaWain) and his wife, Leola;

**WHEREAS**, Monmouth is developing a professionally curated museum, celebrating and interpreting the rich history of Western Illinois and the innovators, such as The Great Nicola; and

**WHEREAS**, The Warren County History Museum maintains in its collection artifacts associated with the Great Nicola, and, through establishing an annual event known as the Great Nicola Magic Festival, will provide educational programming and entertainment celebrating the history and art of magic; and

**WHEREAS**, The Great Nicola Magic Festival will enhance tourism opportunities in Illinois and contribute to the economic development of Western Illinois where Monmouth is located;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Rod Davies, Mayor of Monmouth, do hereby proclaim the week of September 25<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup> as The Great Nicola Magic Week in the City of Monmouth, Illinois.

Dated this 5th day of September, 2023.

ATTESTED:

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Rod Davies, Mayor

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Susan S. Trevor, City Clerk

