

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Richard J Kulovany is being presented with the Downers Grove Historical Society's Historian of the Year Award for 2026, which was established in 2013 to recognize individuals who have significantly promoted and preserved Downers Grove History; and

WHEREAS, Kulovany, raised and educated in Downers Grove, began volunteering his time and talents in 2014 to help Downers Grove preserve its natural and architectural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Kulovany began his efforts by serving on the board of the Friends of the Edwards House, facilitating their move to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and leading the group's outreach programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Kulovany became Chair of Friends of the Edwards House and lead a door-to-door campaign that successfully landmarked 18 historic homes in the first two years, earning the group the Landmarks Illinois 2017 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Project of the Year Award for Advocacy in 2017, and

WHEREAS, Kulovany sat on the board of the Pierce Downers Heritage Alliance, supporting efforts to preserve historic natural areas, protect the Downers Grove's tree canopy, develop a collaborative program with District 58 to educate children on the value of preservation, and advocate for historic structures, such as the 1846 Blodgett House, and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Kulovany's desire for stronger guidelines for downtown redevelopment led him to run for and win a seat as Village Commissioner on the Village Council, where he served four years and played an integral role restructuring the Historic Preservation and Design Review Board, while advocating for protections for neighborhood trees during home demolition and commercial redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, Kulovany joined the Board of the Downers Grove Historical Society in 2018 and has since championed oral-history video projects, strengthened the Historic Home Program, helped modernize the bylaws, and, as a current officer, continues to help lead the organization in its efforts to preserve and celebrate Downers Grove history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert T. Barnett, Mayor of the Village of Downers Grove, do hereby proclaim the week of April 26 through May 2, 2026 as **Richard J. Kulovany Week** in the Village of Downers Grove, and do hereby congratulate Rich on his many achievements and for being recognized as the 2026 Historian of the Year by the Downers Grove Historical Society.

Dated this 21st day of April 2026, at Downers Grove, Illinois.



Mayor