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Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Fox River Radio League

*HON. BILL FOSTER
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Fox River Radio League, one of the longest running amateur radio organizations in our country. Founded in 1924, the Fox River Radio League emerged from the passion and determination of young radio enthusiasts in the Aurora area. These pioneers delved into the worlds of radio theory and Morse code, inspired by the model of the national Amateur Radio Relay League, which had been established a decade earlier in 1914.

When we reflect on the early 20th Century, we recognize it as a time of innovation in wireless communications. The wartime use of radio demonstrated its tremendous potential, highlighting the critical role this technology would play in connecting people across great distances.

In the post-war era, the fascination with radio blossomed, evolving rapidly to encompass new possibilities. Today, we are able to communicate across boundaries that once seemed insurmountable—sending signals that can bounce off the moon, transmitting and receiving digital messages, and establishing communications with astronauts aboard the International Space Station.

Currently, there are over 778,000 licensed amateur radio operators in the United States, each contributing to a network of communication that fosters connectivity and collaboration. Among these esteemed operators is the Fox River Radio League, with its 160 enthusiastic members—an eclectic group spanning from pre-teens to retirees. These dedicated individuals gather monthly in Batavia, Illinois, finding community and joy in their shared passion for this historic hobby. But their contributions extend far beyond personal enjoyment. The members of the Fox River Radio League play a vital role in providing assistance during emergencies, supporting public events, and ensuring safety through on-scene communications.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Fox River Radio League serves as a beacon of community spirit and effective communication in my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this centennial achievement and thanking Kermit Carlson, the current President of the Fox River Radio League, as well as to all their vibrant members. Their dedication to connecting people and providing valuable services exemplifies the very best of civic engagement. May the Fox River Radio League continue to inspire and connect people, spreading the love of amateur radio for generations to come.

Bill Foster

