



HR0512

LRB100 13242 MST 27675 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wishes to congratulate Grace United Methodist
4 Church of Galva, on the occasion of its 150 year anniversary
5 and on its tradition of Christian discipleship and evangelism;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, On May 3, 1867, 13 years after the founding of
8 Galva, R. J. Anderson founded the Swedish Methodist Episcopal
9 Church with 15 members, all of whom were from Sweden; and

10 WHEREAS, Later that same year on September 14, land was
11 purchased and construction on a church was started, a
12 significant feat considering that the members made on average
13 one dollar a day, and yet, despite this, they were able to
14 purchase the land needed and build a church for a combined cost
15 of approximately \$3000; and

16 WHEREAS, Tragically, several decades later, the church was
17 badly damaged by a tornado that ripped through the community of
18 Galva, damaging and destroying many of the surrounding
19 businesses and homes; and

20 WHEREAS, The church members were committed to, in the
21 spirit of the founding members of the church, rebuilding and

1 even adding to the original structure; and

2 WHEREAS, The official language of the church was
3 exclusively Swedish until the early 1930s when a second service
4 in English was added to accommodate non-Swedish speakers;
5 beginning in the early 1940s, all services were conducted in
6 English; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1942, the Swedish Methodist Episcopal Church
8 became a part of the Illinois Conference of the Methodist
9 Church and, in the process, changed its name to Grace Methodist
10 Church before finally changing its name to Grace United
11 Methodist Church following its merger with another local
12 church; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, Grace United Methodist Church, under the
14 shepherding of Pastor Karen L. Martin, continues in its 150
15 year tradition of faith and Christian worship; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 congratulate Grace United Methodist Church of Galva on its
19 150th anniversary, and we wish it many more wonderful years;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the congregation of Grace United Methodist Church
2 of Galva as a symbol of our esteem and respect.