



HR1109

LRB097 21705 KXB 70107 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate the staff, congregation, and pastor of St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church on the 150th anniversary of the church and to congratulate Reverend Jesse Hawkins on his 30th consecutive appointment as pastor to St. John; and

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WHEREAS, On November 16, 2012, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church will celebrate its 150th church Anniversary; St. John is the oldest African-American church west of Chicago; and

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WHEREAS, The church was formally organized June 13, 1862, 75 years after Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, and others established the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, one year after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln, and 25 years after the founding of Aurora; and

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WHEREAS, The Reverend Jesse Hawkins received his 30th consecutive appointment as pastor to St. John this year, making him the longest tenured shepherd at the church; and

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WHEREAS, His commitment to the ministry, to the church, and

1 to the community is valued and appreciated; his most recent
2 achievement was the leading of the congregation to complete a
3 \$28 million building project to the glory of God; therefore, be
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5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate everyone involved at St. John African Methodist
8 Episcopal Church on this momentous occasion and congratulate
9 Reverend Jesse Hawkins on his re-appointment as pastor; and be
10 it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Reverend Jesse Hawkins as a symbol of our respect
13 and esteem.