



HR1203

LRB100 22858 MST 42245 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Bloomington Fire
4 Department on the 150th anniversary of their official founding;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, In 1850, the City of Bloomington recognized the
7 need for a "fire warden", someone who would inspect each
8 building that used a fire inside; in December of 1855, the
9 city's first engine, a hand pump, arrived; the city's first
10 steam engine was purchased in 1867, and, at that point, it
11 became necessary to have someone on duty at all times to keep
12 it ready in case of a fire; and

13 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1868, the city passed an ordinance
14 officially forming the Bloomington Fire Department; and

15 WHEREAS, Three years later in 1871, the Bloomington Fire
16 Department was one of the departments that responded to the
17 call to help fight the Great Chicago Fire; and

18 WHEREAS, M.X. (Marion) Chase is one of the most significant
19 individuals in the history of the Bloomington Fire Department;
20 he served the city of Bloomington for 32 years - 21 of those as
21 chief; he nurtured the department from its early days, taking

1 it from buckets and ladders, to organizing its volunteers and
2 on to a fully-manned, fully-paid department in 1888; and

3 WHEREAS, On December 11, 1911, the department purchased its
4 first motorized apparatus; the department was fully motorized
5 by 1916; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, members of the Bloomington Fire Department
7 use the latest methods and modern equipment and training to
8 fight fires; the department presently has five stations and 119
9 full-time paid firefighter positions; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 congratulate the Bloomington Fire Department on the 150th
13 anniversary of their official founding, and we wish them many
14 more successful years; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the Bloomington Fire Department as a symbol of our
17 respect and esteem.