



HR0245

LRB102 18164 ECR 25652 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In the late 1870s, after Ford County had been
3 plotted, the county wide school system was established with 90
4 one room school houses; one of these schools was initially
5 known as number four in the southwest quarter of section
6 seventeen of Sullivant Township; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1885, the acreage school on which number four
8 was located was purchased by John Mottes Miner; after the
9 original school burned down, he donated his land, and a new
10 school was built, which was then referred to as the Miner Grade
11 School; and

12 WHEREAS, John Miner was raised in Ohio and as a young boy
13 had befriended his neighbor Michael L. Sullivant; in 1854,
14 Michael Sullivant expanded his cattle and land empire into
15 Illinois and brought John Miner with him; and

16 WHEREAS, John Miner was named as brigadier or foreman,
17 known today as farm manager; he led over 600 farm hands for
18 many successful years until several years of bad crops ended
19 the farm's prosperity in 1877; and

20 WHEREAS, In the mid to late 1850s, John Miner would
21 carriage Abraham Lincoln to the different county seats in

1 central Illinois and was one of the last people to shake the
2 president elect's hand as he boarded the train to Springfield
3 and then Washington D.C. to be our 16th president of the United
4 States; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1922, with the passing of John Miner, his
6 daughter Julia inherited the now 80 acres that contained the
7 Miner Grade School house; after that, the Miner Grade School
8 and the land it occupied would then be known as schoolhouse 80;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In the late 1940s, the Ford County school
11 consolidation occurred, which included the closing of all of
12 the one room schoolhouses, including the Miner Grade School;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Miner Grade School had served as a school and
15 as a social and meeting house for the local area for around 60
16 years; and

17 WHEREAS, After sitting empty for a few years, the Miner
18 Grade School was purchased by the Guthrie Grain Elevator and
19 was moved two miles into Guthrie to its new home as a
20 repurposed office for the grain elevator; and

21 WHEREAS, The Miner Grade School was used as the grain

1 elevator's office for the next 35 years until a new office and
2 shop were built; although the story of this specific school
3 ends, its legacy and historical significance to Ford County
4 continues; and

5 WHEREAS, Thomas C. Dueringer, the great-grandson of John
6 Mottes Miner, is responsible for compiling significant
7 research about the Miner Grade School and local history;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we recognize the long and incredible history of the Miner
12 Grade School in Ford County; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we commend the impressive research
14 completed by Thomas C. Dueringer concerning the Miner Grade
15 School leading to its historical marker; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to the Ford County Historical Society and to Thomas
18 C. Dueringer as a symbol of our esteem and respect.