



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Amity Society (Amity) of Freeport is
3 celebrating its 125th anniversary this year; and

4 WHEREAS, Amity, which has the distinction of being the
5 oldest charitable institution in Freeport, was founded in 1880
6 to dispense food and clothing to the needy; this was many years
7 before there were governmental agencies offering such help; and

8 WHEREAS, Amity was started by four women, Misses Isabel
9 Fry, Jessie Snyder, Jennie Stearns, and Mrs. W.E. Boyington, at
10 the First Presbyterian Church with the assistance of their
11 pastor, Dr. H.D. Jenkins; the Society later became a
12 non-sectarian organization; and

13 WHEREAS, During World War I, when many men were rejected
14 for service because of nutritional defects caused in childhood,
15 Amity began working toward a goal of healthy children in the
16 community; a community-wide welfare program was carried on with
17 the help of an Amity nurse; for years, that nurse was Mary
18 Coomber and the visiting nurse was Genevieve Steinmetz; and

19 WHEREAS, The organization foresaw the need for an
20 orthopedic clinic where children with defects of bone or muscle
21 or children crippled by polio could be cared for by
22 specialists; the Elks Club co-sponsored the clinic; and

23 WHEREAS, Amity and Junior Amity worked with expectant
24 mothers, babies, and toddlers; Junior Amity stepped in and
25 cared for children up to preschool age; and

26 WHEREAS, Amity added a visiting nurse to help families care
27 for patients at home who might otherwise have to go to a
28 nursing home or hospital; Amity reports show that the visiting
29 nurse made over one hundred calls per month; and

1 WHEREAS, Over the years, Amity has been serving the needs
2 of children and still carries on that work today; the Amity Day
3 Care Learning Center was established in 1966; the center
4 provides affordable day care and education services to
5 approximately one hundred twenty children from six weeks old to
6 those in the fourth grade; and

7 WHEREAS, Another fundraising project of Amity is Amity's
8 Attic, a resale shop; Amity's Attic has been in operation since
9 1996; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate Amity Society on the occasion of the
13 organization's 125th anniversary; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Amity Society as an expression of our esteem and
16 with best wishes for the organization's future success.