



HR0465

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize the accomplishments  
4 of local communities and their commitment to serving their  
5 fellow citizens; and

6           WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Joliet will celebrate its 100th  
7 anniversary on August 3, 2013; and

8           WHEREAS, Rotary International, the world's first service  
9 organization, was founded in Chicago in 1905 and has since  
10 grown to include 33,000 clubs and 1.3 million members; and

11           WHEREAS, Rotary International focuses locally and globally  
12 on the goals of peace and conflict resolution, disease  
13 prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and  
14 child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and  
15 community development, with a special focus on the eradication  
16 of polio from the earth; and

17           WHEREAS, What was to become the Rotary Club of Joliet in  
18 1913, began as the Study Club in 1910; the Study Club's purpose  
19 was to study business building, efficiency, and character  
20 development; the club's president was John McGuire and the  
21 members were John P. Kelly, Edmund H. Lennon, Thomas P. Lennon,

1 Maurice F. Lennon, Joseph McGlynn, Michael J. Ryan, Thomas S.  
2 Stoll, Robert P. Kiep, Ambrose Kiep, George Lennon, A.F.  
3 Bannon, James F. Hebert, James Ley, Nick J. Freis, and F. B.  
4 Murphy; and

5 WHEREAS, Joliet Rotary was accepted into membership at the  
6 Rotary International Convention held in Buffalo, New York and  
7 chartered on August 1, 1913, becoming the first Rotary Club  
8 from a city of less than 75,000 population; and

9 WHEREAS, Noon luncheons were started on September 22, 1914,  
10 in the Hobbs Cafe; since then, Joliet Rotary has held its  
11 luncheon meetings in the Universalist Church parlors, Snapps  
12 Cafeteria, the Chamber of Commerce, Masonic Temple, the YMCA,  
13 the Woodruff Hotel, the Louis Joliet Hotel, and the Louis  
14 Joliet Renaissance Center; and

15 WHEREAS, Since 1913, the Joliet Rotary Club, by  
16 recommendations to Rotary International, has ceded territory  
17 as well as helped establish new territories by starting Rotary  
18 Clubs in Ottawa (1914), Morris (1915), Kankakee (1915),  
19 Streator (1919), LaSalle (1920), DeKalb (1921), Aurora (1923),  
20 Manteno (1937), Wilmington (1938), and Lockport (1966); the  
21 Club has produced four District Governors, J. Stanley Brown  
22 (1918-1919), Rev. Henry E. Rompel (1923-1924), Ralph E. Morgan  
23 (1957-1958), and Robert E. Leckrone (1986-1987); and

1           WHEREAS, In 1987, Rotary International extended membership  
2 to women in the United States; at the Conference on Legislation  
3 held in Singapore on January 23, 1989, Resolution 8954 was  
4 presented by Joliet Rotarian Bob Leckrone, thus officially  
5 admitting women into Rotary International; the first women  
6 inducted into Joliet Rotary were Mary Jane Broncato, Ruth  
7 Calvert Fitzgerald, Carolyn Healy, and Sister Dismas Janssen;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, Joliet Rotary purchased uniforms and instruments  
10 for the start of the Joliet Township High School band, which  
11 won State Championships in 1924, 1925, and 1926, National  
12 Championships in 1926, 1927, 1928, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1938, and  
13 1940, and gave Joliet the nickname, "City of Champions"; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1914, Vaughn Brooks, the second president of  
15 Joliet Rotary, was responsible for founding the Joliet Chamber  
16 of Commerce; and

17           WHEREAS, In 1915, Joliet Rotary procured Higginbotham  
18 Woods for city park property; in 1917, during World War I,  
19 Joliet Rotary equipped the "Dandy First" soldiers with shoes  
20 and other equipment while they were training at Dellwood Park;  
21 in 1930, Joliet Rotary sponsored the first Boy Scout camp at  
22 Morris, which is still in existence; later, Joliet Rotary

1 sponsored the first Girl Scout camp at Custer Park; and

2 WHEREAS, From 1984 to 1988, over \$250,000 and in-kind  
3 contributions were donated to build the Rotary Sports Complex  
4 at the Galowich YMCA on the west side of Joliet; in 1989,  
5 Joliet Rotary established a \$75,000 endowment fund to maintain  
6 the YMCA Sports Field; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1990, Joliet Rotary donated \$30,000 to Habitat  
8 for Humanity to construct two homes; in 1991, Joliet Rotary  
9 donated \$30,000 to Will-Grundy Free Medical Clinic for an  
10 endowment fund for medications; in 1992, Joliet Rotary donated  
11 \$26,100 to D-FY-IT drug testing program for local high schools,  
12 in 1993, Joliet Rotary donated \$30,000 to purchase equipment to  
13 establish a handicapped playground for Easter Seals; in 1994,  
14 Joliet Rotary purchased a 15-passenger van for the Salvation  
15 Army; in 1995, Joliet Rotary donated \$30,000 to help refurbish  
16 facilities for an abused women's shelter; in 1996, Joliet  
17 Rotary donated \$32,000 to Easter Seals for furnishing a  
18 supervisory group home; in 1997, Joliet Rotary donated \$30,000  
19 to United Cerebral Palsy Park for specialized playground  
20 equipment; in 1998, Joliet Rotary donated a total of \$30,000  
21 for endowed scholarships to be awarded annually by Joliet  
22 Junior College, Lewis University, and the University of St.  
23 Francis; in 1999, Joliet Rotary donated \$30,000 for funding of  
24 the Will-Grundy Rotary Dental Clinic; in 2000, Joliet Rotary

1 donated \$27,400 to Morningstar Mission Ministries for their  
2 kitchen renovation project; in 2001, Joliet Rotary divided a  
3 \$30,000 donation to the Salvation Army for renovation of their  
4 kitchen and to the Will County Humane Society for renovation of  
5 their facility; in 2002, Joliet Rotary donated a total of  
6 \$30,000 to the Rotary College Scholarship Program for the  
7 scholarship fund established at Lewis University, University  
8 of St. Francis, and Joliet Junior College; in 2003, Joliet  
9 Rotary donated \$30,000 to Joliet Hospice for the construction  
10 of a patient room; in 2004, Joliet Rotary donated \$14,000 to  
11 Lamb's Fold toward a new shower room for the women and  
12 children; and

13 WHEREAS, Thousands of dictionaries are provided by Joliet  
14 Rotary to Joliet public and private school 4th graders each  
15 year; and

16 WHEREAS, Countless additional donations of time, talent,  
17 and treasure have benefitted the local Joliet community as well  
18 as Rotary beneficiaries around the world; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we congratulate the current and past members of the Rotary Club  
22 of Joliet on the occasion of the club's 100th anniversary and  
23 thank the members for providing 100 years of service above

1 self; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the Rotary Club of Joliet, Illinois, USA as a  
4 symbol of our esteem and respect.