



HR0492

LRB100 13071 MST 27458 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Constitution of the Most Serene Republic of San Marino was adopted on October 8, 1600, making the European enclave the world's oldest constitutional republic; and

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WHEREAS, On the 3rd day of September, 2017, the Most Serene Republic of San Marino will celebrate the Feast of San Marino, a holiday recognizing the anniversary of the foundation of the Republic in A.D. 301; and

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WHEREAS, In the mid-19th century, there were only a few republics in Europe; hundreds of letters poured in from all over the world in the spring of 1861, congratulating Abraham Lincoln, the favorite son of the State of Illinois, on his inauguration as President of the United States; one in particular from the oldest surviving republic in the world, "the Most Serene Republic of San Marino", caught the eye of Secretary of State William Henry Seward; the message was addressed to the new president of a much younger and most troubled republic facing secession and civil war; and

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WHEREAS, President Lincoln was greatly moved by the letter and it stirred him to view the national calamity now facing his own country as part of a much grander question: what future, if any, did republican democracy have in a world beset by slavery

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1 and tyranny; and

2 WHEREAS, In his reply to San Marino, President Lincoln
3 wrote: "Great and Good Friends Although your dominion is
4 small, your State is nevertheless one of the most honored, in
5 all history. It has by its experience demonstrated the truth,
6 so full of encouragement to the friends of Humanity, that
7 Government founded on Republican principles is capable of being
8 so administered as to be secure and enduring"; and

9 WHEREAS, President Lincoln's letter then turned to
10 America's troubles: "You have kindly adverted to the trial
11 through which this Republic is now passing. It is one of deep
12 import. It involves the question whether a Representative
13 republic, extended and aggrandized so much as to be safe
14 against foreign enemies can save itself from the dangers of
15 domestic faction. I have faith in a good result."; a thought
16 the president would place at the center of his Gettysburg
17 Address, still two and a half years in the future; and

18 WHEREAS, In President Lincoln's reply to the Captains
19 Regent on May 7, 1861, the United States of America by exchange
20 of notes recognized the Most Serene Republic of San Marino
21 through the President's acceptance of San Marino's offer of
22 honorary citizenship; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 congratulate the Most Serene Republic of San Marino upon the
4 2017 celebration of the Feast of San Marino and of the
5 foundation of the Republic, and with an enduring memory of the
6 ties between our peoples we thank the people and Captains
7 Regent of San Marino for their friendship to the United States
8 and their recognition of President Abraham Lincoln; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the people and the Captains Regent of the Most
12 Serene Republic of San Marino.