



HR0046

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate the congregation of the Morning Star Free Will Baptist Church of Urbana on the occasion of the church's 100th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, The first Free Will Baptist Church was organized in 1727 by Brother Paul Palmer; more Free Will Baptist churches were organized throughout the 1800s, with anti-slavery as a core belief; Free Will Baptist churches began to spread throughout the nation in 1876; and

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WHEREAS, The Morning Star Free Will Baptist Church of Urbana was organized in February of 1911; the church's first elected Pastor was Rev. L.W. Wilber; and

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WHEREAS, The Morning Star Free Will Baptist Church's present Pastor, Elder Holmes, has presided over the church since April of 1982; during the past 29 years, Pastor Elder Holmes has helped update the church facility as the congregation has grown greatly; and

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WHEREAS, Over the years, the Morning Star Free Will Baptist Church has been blessed to host musicians such as Mavis Staples and the Staple Singers, Dr. Mattie Moss Clark, Twinkie Clark,

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1 Edwin Hawkins, and the Williams Brothers; the church has also
2 hosted a number of religious leaders, including Dr. Martin
3 Luther King Sr.; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the Morning Star Free Will Baptist Church
5 remains a place of worship and praise through prayer and song;
6 while the church's members are few, the church continues to
7 look to God for His divine grace and mercy to work with those
8 who are here and willing to work and to overcome all obstacles
9 that are put before them; and

10 WHEREAS, The congregation of the Morning Star Free Will
11 Baptist Church serves as a model of hard work, integrity, and
12 dedication for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore,
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate the congregation of the Morning Star Free Will
17 Baptist Church of Urbana on the occasion of the church's 100th
18 anniversary and wish them continued success and happiness in
19 the future; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Pastor Elder Holmes of the Morning Star Free Will
22 Baptist Church as a symbol of our esteem and respect.