



HR0929

LRB097 21039 KXB 68349 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Sister Patricia M. Murphy,
4 RSM, and Sister JoAnn Persch, RSM, for their years of
5 dedication to helping others; and

6 WHEREAS, Sister Patricia Murphy and Sister JoAnn Persch
7 have both been educators and administrators; Sister Patricia
8 ministered in Sicuani, Peru, where she opened a school and
9 served as principal for 8 years; they have both ministered to
10 the elderly through service in the Mercy Hospital community
11 outreach program and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In 1990, the Sisters were part of a team of 4 who
14 opened Su Casa Catholic Worker Community for Central American
15 Refugees seeking political asylum; the residents were
16 survivors of torture; in 1996, they moved to Casa Notre Dame
17 which sheltered women in recovery from addictions and also
18 sheltered their children; and

19 WHEREAS, Sister JoAnn and Sister Patricia became Peace and
20 Justice Coordinators for the Sisters of Mercy in Chicago and
21 currently continue their work as volunteer Peace and Justice
22 Ministers in the Chicago area of the WestMidwest Community;

1 their passion for working with immigrants stems from the work
2 at Su Casa, but they are also called to this ministry by the
3 commitment of their religious community to stand in solidarity
4 with immigrants; their ministry includes advocacy for
5 comprehensive immigration reform; and

6 WHEREAS, The Sisters have a special concern for those who
7 are being detained and those being deported; their ministry
8 includes prayer at the deportation staging center each Friday
9 morning while people are being deported; that prayer has led
10 them to establish a court watch program in the immigration
11 court; attempts to enter the deportation center and the McHenry
12 County Jail failed, which led to work with the Illinois
13 Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Interfaith
14 Committee for Detained Immigrants to have a bill passed in the
15 Illinois Legislature which allows pastoral workers access to
16 the detainees; and

17 WHEREAS, With the passage and implementation of the bill,
18 the Sisters have trained pastoral workers and developed teams
19 to go into the McHenry County Jail; the teams meet with the
20 detained immigrants once every week; the Sisters, along with
21 the Illinois Coalition and the Interfaith Committee, obtained
22 permission to pray on the buses at the deportation center with
23 those being deported; and

1 WHEREAS, Since March of 2010, the Sisters are permitted to
2 enter the deportation center and to pray with those being
3 deported and support the families who come to say goodbye; and

4 WHEREAS, Their current project is the Post-Detention
5 Accompaniment Program for men and women who are released but
6 have no support until they can start life over; Sister Patricia
7 and Sister JoAnn collaborate with the Illinois Coalition for
8 Immigrant and Refugee Rights and the Office of Immigrant
9 Affairs and Immigration Education of the Chicago Archdiocese;
10 they are among the founding members of the Sisters and Brothers
11 of Immigrants and work collaboratively with the Priests for
12 Justice for Immigrants; their umbrella group is the Interfaith
13 Committee for Detained Immigrants; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we thank Sister Patricia and Sister JoAnn for their dedication
17 to God's people and their ministry; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Sister Patricia Murphy and Sister JoAnn Persch as
20 a symbol of our respect and esteem.