



HR0992

LRB097 21251 KXB 68897 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Reverend John P.
4 Smyth on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the
5 priesthood; and

6 WHEREAS, Father John P. Smyth, President of Notre Dame
7 College Prep in Niles, will be celebrating the 50th anniversary
8 of his ordination to the priesthood on April 28, 2012; Father
9 Smyth was the Executive Director of Maryville Academy, the
10 "City of Youth" in Des Plaines for 40 years; and

11 WHEREAS, Father Smyth has significantly impacted the lives
12 of thousands of girls and boys in the greater Chicagoland area
13 for more than 4 decades; recognized nationally as well as
14 locally for innovative and creative strategies in caring for
15 youth at risk, his "family model" for residential living became
16 the template for orphanages and child-care institutions
17 world-wide; and

18 WHEREAS, Father Smyth was a pioneer in fund-raising and
19 development efforts; his annual production of the "Chuck Wagon"
20 weekends on Maryville's grounds united union leaders, major
21 league athletes, politicians, and thousands of regular folks in
22 the common cause of helping needy kids; and

1 WHEREAS, His tireless energy was demonstrated early in his
2 commitment to athletics; he was a 3-sport high school star at
3 DePaul Academy and was a distinguished scholar-athlete at the
4 University of Notre Dame; evaluated at a skill level similar to
5 Wilt Chamberlain, he was offered a playing position for the
6 National Basketball Association upon graduating from Notre
7 Dame in 1957; and

8 WHEREAS, He not only distinguished himself on the athletic
9 fields at the University of Notre Dame, but also holds the
10 highest Catholic service award in the United States from Notre
11 Dame, the Laetare Medal; and

12 WHEREAS, Choosing instead to enter the Archdiocese of
13 Chicago Seminary at Mundelein, Father Smyth was ordained on
14 April 28, 1962; his only priestly assignment, before the
15 presidency at Notre Dame College Prep, was at Maryville
16 Academy; his ministry was so critical to the Church, and to the
17 State of Illinois, that none of the 4 Cardinals he served under
18 would allow him to transfer; and

19 WHEREAS, The Executive Board at Notre Dame College Prep
20 offered the presidency to Father Smyth early in 2007; on April
21 1, 2012, Father Smyth completed the fifth year of his term;
22 under his direction, enrollment has increased, there have been

1 enhancements made on the physical plant, and new enthusiasm has
2 been generated; currently, 805 young men make up the student
3 body; major renovations in a number of areas have preceded the
4 ground-breaking for a new educational building, now in the
5 planning stages; and

6 WHEREAS, Notre Dame College Prep is hosting an anniversary
7 Mass at school on Friday, April 27, 2012; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate Reverend John P. Smyth on the 50th anniversary
11 of his ordination to the priesthood and wish him continued good
12 health and happiness for years to come; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Reverend John P. Smyth as a symbol of our respect
15 and esteem.