



HR0474

LRB098 12506 GRL 46922 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, One of the greatest crises in the history of the  
3 United States, the Civil War, almost tore the nation apart; the  
4 leaders of the United States decided, upon the conclusion of  
5 the war, to use the life and memory of Abraham Lincoln, who had  
6 just been assassinated, as a symbol of national unity and  
7 mutual forgiveness; and

8           WHEREAS, Instead of using the President's death to look for  
9 conspiracies and take revenge upon the fallen Confederacy, the  
10 fallen President's administration organized a funeral train  
11 that would follow a modified version of the pathway taken by  
12 the then President-elect on his way to Washington; and

13           WHEREAS, The train's route from Washington to Springfield,  
14 Illinois, traveled through both a former slave state (Maryland)  
15 and 6 "free states" as a symbol of the reunification of the  
16 country; and

17           WHEREAS, To enable as many Americans as possible to pay  
18 tribute to Lincoln's memory, the funeral train's route was  
19 modified to make stops in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York  
20 City, Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland, Columbus, Indianapolis, and  
21 Chicago; Lincoln's funeral train became one of the first  
22 exercises of ceremonial mass participation in modern world

1 history, with reporters seeing more than 1 million mourners  
2 line the train tracks; tens of thousands attended casket  
3 viewings held at principal railroad junctions along the route;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Lincoln's funeral train, and his return to  
6 Springfield, Illinois, are powerful symbols of the desire of  
7 all Americans for peace, reconciliation, and searching for  
8 sources of common inspiration to resolve our social, political,  
9 and economic differences; and

10 WHEREAS, Support for the memory of Abraham Lincoln, and for  
11 the ceremonies used to return him publicly to his hometown in  
12 central Illinois, are a powerful way for Americans to fight  
13 back against the bitterness and resentment generated by today's  
14 press and politics; and

15 WHEREAS, By minting a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Coin, we can  
16 continue the legacy of Abraham Lincoln and pay tribute to this  
17 great man and his efforts to keep our nation together;  
18 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 urge the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee to study and  
22 make a recommendation to the United States Secretary of the

1 Treasury on the production of a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Coin;  
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That such a coin should be minted for circulation  
4 in April and May of 2015 in memory of President Abraham Lincoln  
5 and the reunification of the United States as symbolized by his  
6 funeral train to Springfield, Illinois and the subsequent  
7 re-enactment of his burial on the 150th anniversary of the  
8 original event on May 4, 2015; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 presented to the members of the Citizens Coinage Advisory  
11 Committee, United States Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew,  
12 the members of Illinois delegation of the U.S. House of  
13 Representatives, and U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk.