



HR0500

LRB098 12695 GRL 47141 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, 2013 marks the 170th anniversary of B'nai B'rith  
3 International; and

4 WHEREAS, The organization was founded on the Lower East  
5 Side of New York to improve the lives of new German Jewish  
6 immigrants to America; and

7 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith is the oldest service organization  
8 founded in the United States and has an unparalleled record of  
9 aiding humanity in communities throughout the United States and  
10 more than 50 other nations; the American Red Cross, which was  
11 founded 38 years later, was co-founded by a B'nai B'rith  
12 member; and

13 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith has provided over \$100 million in  
14 cash, medical equipment, and supplies to victims of disasters  
15 worldwide since 1868; and

16 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith is a strong and vocal advocate for  
17 the promotion of the State of Israel and has had an active  
18 presence in Israel since 1888; and

19 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith has had an active presence as an NGO  
20 at the United Nations since its founding and is the only Jewish

1 NGO with full-time representation at the United Nations in New  
2 York and its agencies in Europe and Latin America; and

3 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith is America's largest Jewish sponsor  
4 of federally-funded housing for seniors with limited income,  
5 provides safe, comfortable, and affordable housing for seniors  
6 without regard for race, religion, and ethnicity, and has an  
7 international network of senior living facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith is widely acclaimed as a forceful  
9 advocate for senior citizens, with a special emphasis on  
10 protecting Social Security and Medicare and in supporting  
11 health care reform for all; and

12 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith has a 100-year record of commitment  
13 to cultural diversity, tolerance, and understanding,  
14 complemented by the Diverse Minds Youth Writing challenge,  
15 through which high school students write and illustrate books;  
16 B'nai B'rith publishes the books for elementary school  
17 children, teaching them the values of tolerance and diversity;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, B'nai B'rith members in local communities provide  
20 countless hours of service to local projects to better the  
21 communities in which they live; and

1           WHEREAS, The B'nai B'rith International president, Mr.  
2 Allen Jacobs, is a resident of Lake Forest; therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we designate October 13, 2013 as B'nai B'rith Day in the State  
6 of Illinois.