



HR1077

LRB098 21141 MST 58999 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize Art Rorheim, co-founder of
4 AWANA Clubs International, on his commitment to his faith, his
5 family, his State, his country, and to churches across the
6 world; and

7 WHEREAS, Art Rorheim's wife and co-worker for the past 75
8 years, Winnie, is considered his most important partner in the
9 ministry; marrying in 1939, they weathered some lean times in
10 the early years; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1930s, Art Rorheim volunteered as a weekly
12 club leader at the North Side Gospel Center under the direction
13 of Dr. Lance Latham, and later became the youth director; and

14 WHEREAS, Art Rorheim and Dr. Latham were pioneers in
15 creating the youth director post, prioritizing ministry to
16 children and teens, and created a new midweek ministry called
17 AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed); and

18 WHEREAS, AWANA blossomed, drawing over 500 children and
19 teens to the Gospel Center each week; other churches learned
20 about its success and inquired about its availability; and

1 WHEREAS, As the Executive Director of AWANA, Art Rorheim
2 expanded the organization into a worldwide ministry, with over
3 14,000 churches, orphanages, and Christian schools operating
4 in over 100 countries, impacting over 700,000 young people in a
5 given week; and

6 WHEREAS, In his mid-90s, Art Rorheim continues to welcome
7 opportunities to share his heart, wisdom, and experiences with
8 a variety of audiences in various venues, speaking at AWANA
9 Ministry Conferences, churches, on radio programs, and has been
10 interviewed by a wide range of print, online, and radio media;
11 he still travels the world to speak at conferences and meet
12 with ministry leaders and partners; and

13 WHEREAS, When Art Rorheim looks back at his years in AWANA,
14 he cannot imagine his phenomenal journey without Winnie by his
15 side, recognizing that "The Lord brought us together for a
16 reason, and I'm glad He did"; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we recognize Art Rorheim, co-founder of AWANA Clubs
20 International, on his commitment to his faith, his family, his
21 State, his country, and to churches across the world and; and
22 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Art and Winnie Rorheim as an expression of our
3 esteem and respect.