



HR0053

LRB100 08272 MST 18374 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The teachers, parents, and pupils of St. Mary Immaculate School in Plainfield are part of a growing, 62-year-old institution of spiritual life and education; and

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WHEREAS, For many years, Catholic parishioners in Plainfield had hoped and dreamed that a school could be founded to teach and provide guidance for their children and youth; this dream began to become a reality with the period of peace that followed the end of the Korean War in 1953; a six-acre tract of land was purchased in October of 1953, and ground was broken in November of 1954; and

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WHEREAS, A six-room school building with 167 students and a faculty of four teachers, opened and commenced operations in September of 1955; and

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WHEREAS, St. Mary's School was officially dedicated on May 13, 1956 by Bishop Martin D. McNamara; and

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WHEREAS, On a day that those connected with St. Mary's School will never forget, August 28, 1990, a category F5 tornado struck Plainfield; at St. Mary's, the death toll included the names of Principal Sr. Mary Keenan, Gloria Sanchez, and Howard Hawes Jr.; and

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1 WHEREAS, In line with the historic commitment of Catholic
2 parishes and schools to community service, St. Mary's came
3 together in the wake of this tragedy to provide a base of
4 support for the stricken community, which was mourning the
5 deaths of 29 neighbors and friends; and

6 WHEREAS, The parish of St. Mary's came together to rebuild
7 their church and school; the new school opened in the fall of
8 1993; and

9 WHEREAS, A new period of spiritual and physical growth
10 began for St. Mary's School in the wake of this damage and
11 tragedy; many new families came to the Plainfield area with a
12 desire for spiritual life and education; the effects of this
13 period of growth have continued to 2017; in a recent count, St.
14 Mary's School had more than 550 pupils, more than tripling the
15 startup enrollment in September of 1955; and

16 WHEREAS, The school affirms that its focus on faith enables
17 its teachers to help students connect with and embody the
18 Catholic faith through daily Bible readings, prayer, and
19 classroom instruction; and

20 WHEREAS, The Catholic schools of Illinois currently
21 provide students with an education that emphasizes the

1 formation of moral values and commitment to community service;
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3 WHEREAS, The welfare of Illinois requires that this and
4 future generations of school-age children be assured ample
5 opportunity to develop their intellectual capacities to the
6 fullest; and

7 WHEREAS, National Catholic Schools Week runs from January
8 29 to February 4, 2017; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 recognize the St. Mary Immaculate Parish School as a community
12 of faith, knowledge, and service; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to John Garvey, Principal of St. Mary Immaculate
15 Parish School.