



HR0185

LRB100 11648 MST 22476 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Virginia Masonic Lodge #544 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in 2017; and

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WHEREAS, Virginia Masonic Lodge #544 was formally organized on April 3, 1867, and its charter was issued on October 1, 1867; its current building opened in 1983; and

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WHEREAS, Gustave F. Hillig, a Civil War veteran, was elected as the first Worshipful Master and served in the position a total of 12 times; Robert H. Mann was the second-longest serving Worshipful Master with a total of 11 terms; and

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WHEREAS, Lodge members have served as mayors, aldermen, city attorneys, and in the judiciary; some have served in other public offices, including county clerk, county board member, state legislator, and Congress; they have served in every branch of the United States military; and

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WHEREAS, Lodge members support orphanages, scholarships, and families in need; members are strong supporters of education; all three cornerstones for Virginia's high schools

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1 were laid by Masons, most recently on June 7, 2014; and

2 WHEREAS, Lodge members exemplify the Masonic Mission:
3 "Freemasonry aims to promote Friendship, Morality, and
4 Brotherly Love among its members. It is, by definition, a
5 fraternity; comprised of men from every race, religion,
6 opinion, and background who are brought together as Brothers to
7 develop and strengthen the bonds of friendship."; therefore, be
8 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 150th anniversary of the founding of Virginia
12 Masonic Lodge #544 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons in 2017, and
13 we wish them many more successful years; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the members of Virginia Masonic Lodge #544.