



HR0477

LRB100 12935 MST 27358 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the 300th anniversary of the founding of modern Freemasonry; and

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WHEREAS, The specific milestone celebrates the gathering in 1717 of four London lodges at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern to declare themselves a Grand Lodge and elect their Grand Master; on that date, the actions of those Brethren began the current form of speculative freemasonry that still exists today; and

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WHEREAS, The origins of Freemasonry are veiled in mystery; some feel it dates back to the Roman Empire; others say it had its beginning in ancient Egypt or that it began with the building of the First Temple by King Solomon; others find that the Knights Templar were the backbone of Freemasonry after escaping from mainland Europe to Scotland and England; and

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WHEREAS, What is known is that the first Grand Lodge was formed in London in 1717; its successor, the United Grand Lodge of England, survives today, having sired other Grand Lodges throughout the world; and

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WHEREAS, The oldest known Past Master's Symbol consists of

1 the Compass, Sun, Square, and Quadrant; this is the most
2 popular Past Master's Jewel used in the United States; this
3 symbol includes the Square as a reminder that it is "By the
4 Square" that the wearer governed his lodge as Master; and

5 WHEREAS, The Quadrant shows what angle the Compass is
6 opened at; this is appropriate for the symbol of a Past Master
7 because it is "By the Compass" that the Freemason keeps himself
8 within due bounds of all mankind; it also generally shows that
9 the Compass is opened to the angle of 60 degrees; this is
10 significant because 60 degrees is the angle of an equilateral
11 triangle; the equilateral triangle represents perfect balance
12 as all sides are of equal length and the triangle appears the
13 same from all directions; it therefore teaches that the man who
14 wears this jewel has learned the lessons of Freemasonry and
15 lives a balanced life; it also shows that the wearer of this
16 jewel has served equally in the South, the West, and the East;
17 the Sun is used in this symbol to represent that the wearer has
18 observed the sun at: its meridian height in the South, its
19 setting in the West, and its rising in the East; the Sun also
20 represents light; and, it is understood that the Past Master of
21 a Craft Lodge is a source of Masonic Light to his brothers; it
22 is also appropriate to say that the Sun represents perfect
23 light; and

24 WHEREAS, Illinois has over 460 lodges and approximately

1 60,000 Masons, and represent a significant collection of
2 talents, knowledge, skills, and abilities; members are
3 fathers, husbands, and sons from various financial, racial, and
4 religious backgrounds; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois Masons closely follow their vision and
6 mission statement: Commitment, Civility, and Charity; and

7 WHEREAS, The Illinois Masonic Outreach Services helps
8 fellow Master Masons and their families through the toughest of
9 times; the Illinois Child Identification Program puts together
10 everything parents need to help the authorities find their lost
11 child; Coins for Children Program is a program that is designed
12 to assist lodges expand and extend their charitable efforts in
13 their communities; the Illinois Masonic Student Assistance
14 Program is a school-based early intervention approach for
15 schools to help students who are having difficulty being
16 successful in school; and

17 WHEREAS, The Illinois Masonic Academic Bowl is an academic
18 knowledge competition between Illinois high school scholastic
19 bowl teams; this is an annual tournament sponsored by the
20 Masons of Illinois and is coordinated through the Grand Lodge
21 of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, On June 24, 2017, Masons around the world will
2 join together to recognize and celebrate this anniversary;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 recognize the 300th anniversary of the founding of modern
7 Freemasonry, and we wish them many more successful years; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the Grand Lodge of Illinois Ancient Free and
11 Accepted Masons.