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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to recognize milestone events in the lives of the citizens of the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that the St. Ambrogio Mutual Benefit Society of Rockford, Illinois is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year; this social organization began at a club at 802 Montague Street in Rockford on May 1, 1918; of the many Italian social clubs that existed years ago in South Rockford, the St. Ambrogio Club is the last remaining; and

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WHEREAS, Immigrants from Ferentino, Italy, an ancient hill town founded in 4 B.C. southeast of Rome, organized the St. Ambrogio Society for fellowship and assimilation assistance in a new land that was often unwelcoming to them; the "Americanization Hall," previously housed at St. Anthony of Padua Church, was moved to the front of the St. Ambrogio Society Club in the 1920s; the hall functioned as a school for the early Italian immigrants of Rockford with instruction on the English language and American culture and customs; accordingly, the club and hall are important parts of Rockford's history and South Rockford landmarks; and

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WHEREAS, The St. Ambrogio Club took its name in honor of

1 the revered and martyred saint of Ferentino, Italy; so
2 important is St. Ambrogio to Ferentino's history that he is
3 codified in its municipal laws and two official annual city
4 holiday feasts with elaborate processions and fanfare
5 commemorate him; the St. Ambrogio Club of Rockford likewise
6 honors him with its annual festivities in August; and

7 WHEREAS, In recognition of the long-standing and enduring
8 ties that have existed between the people of Ferentino, Italy
9 and Rockford, Illinois, the two cities officially joined
10 together as Sister Cities on May 15, 2006; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, The St. Ambrogio Society is a vibrant
12 social club, with weekly fish fries, lunches, special events,
13 meetings, and hundreds of bocce players in summer leagues; with
14 over 300 members of all ages and an active ladies' auxiliary,
15 this club is vital to the revitalization of South Rockford; the
16 club welcomes all people and has been a good neighbor and
17 stabilizing influence on the Montague Street neighborhood for
18 100 years; the club's banquet hall is rented by people from all
19 over the greater Rockford area for their special events and
20 continues to draw people from throughout the State for its
21 assorted events and festivities; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
23 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 congratulate the St. Ambrogio Society on the occasion of its
2 100th anniversary; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the St. Ambrogio Society as an expression of our
5 esteem and respect.