



HR1067

LRB100 21958 MST 39956 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on the occasion of its 111th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, Maria Thornton, a member of the Bethel AME Church in Chicago, moved to Chicago Heights in the early 1900s and envisioned establishing a house of worship in her new community; and

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WHEREAS, On May 18, 1907, in the home of Hattie Brown, Maria Thornton and Rev. Thesby founded the A.M.E. Church of Chicago Heights; during the first months, the congregation had no regular meeting place and held services from home to home, often in the home of Hattie Brown; the first actual church building was erected in 1908-1909; the church moved into its current location on Easter Sunday in 1925; and

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WHEREAS, The Payne Chapel AME Church was the first African American church in the Chicago Heights community; it was built and paid for by local families; and

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WHEREAS, For 111 years, the Payne Chapel AME Church has helped the Chicago Heights community through its food pantry,

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1 mission donations, clothing drive, and new community focus
2 initiative; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 congratulate the Payne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal
6 Church on its 111th anniversary, and we wish them many more
7 wonderful years; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the Payne Chapel AME Church as a symbol of our
10 respect and esteem.