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LRB100 22204 ALS 40757 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On September 13, 2017, the National Hurricane Center began tracking a tropical wave that ultimately became Hurricane Maria; and

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WHEREAS, Hurricane Maria became the tenth most intense Atlantic hurricane on record and the most intense tropical storm of the 2017 season; and

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WHEREAS, On September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico as a Category 4 storm with sustained wind speeds of 155 miles per hour; and

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WHEREAS, Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands just 14 days after Hurricane Irma; and

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WHEREAS, All of the 3.5 million residents of Puerto Rico lost power following Hurricanes Irma and Maria; and

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WHEREAS, In the nearly seven months since Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico, more than 40,000 people are still without electricity; and

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WHEREAS, Puerto Rico is experiencing the longest blackout in U.S. history and second longest in world history, measured

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1 in customer hours of lost electricity service; and

2 WHEREAS, Eighty-five Ameren Illinois employees drove line  
3 and bucket trucks to Virginia to be shipped and later returned  
4 by barge to Puerto Rico; and

5 WHEREAS, Ninety-eight Ameren Illinois employees went  
6 voluntarily to Puerto Rico to assist the local utility in  
7 restoring power; and

8 WHEREAS, The employees who went to Puerto Rico faced  
9 unfamiliar and treacherous terrain on the island's mountains  
10 and in its rainforests; and

11 WHEREAS, These employees, along with utility workers from  
12 Ameren Missouri and Ameren Transmission, installed over 500  
13 poles, over 400 transformers, and more than 100 miles of power  
14 lines; and

15 WHEREAS, Through the hard work of these employees and their  
16 70 days on the island, approximately 9,200 customers in  
17 affected areas had their power restored; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
20 recognize the humanitarian efforts of the men and women of

1 Ameren Illinois who volunteered to help restore electricity to  
2 the island of Puerto Rico, known affectionately as La Isla del  
3 Encanto; and be it further

4       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the Ameren Illinois Operations Team leads for  
6 their service to the people of Puerto Rico and as a symbol of  
7 our esteem and respect.