



HR1207

LRB100 23313 MST 42330 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Joliet Branch 20 of the Slovenian Union of America on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, The Slovenian Union of America, originally the Slovenian Women's Union of America, was founded by Slovenian immigrant Marie Prisland of Sheboygan, Wisconsin on December 19, 1926 to unite Slovenian women and provide an open forum for self-expression and the opportunity to learn from one another in their new country; and

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WHEREAS, Joliet's Branch 20 was the third of 12 branches to be organized in Illinois; on June 11, 1928 at the home of Mary Russ, 14 charter members of Branch 20 met for the first time; most of the members were parishioners of St. Joseph Church, founded by immigrants in 1891; many of Branch 20 activities over the decades have been centered on the beloved church; and

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WHEREAS, Branch 20 members are hard-working American citizens who have enriched society with their faith, patriotism, and love of their Slovenian history, customs, food, and music; Slovenian-Americans in Joliet and the greater Will County area continue to serve in all areas of community life;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, The vision of the Slovenian Union of America is to
3 preserve the living spirit of its founders and past members by
4 preserving the Slovenian legacy for future generations; it has
5 published several cookbooks and maintains a library at its
6 Heritage Museum in Joliet; since 1929, the Union has published
7 a cultural heritage magazine called ZARJA (The Dawn) and has
8 cooperated in recent years with Slovenia in heritage
9 preservation projects; in 1943, the Union became the first
10 Slovenian fraternal organization to establish a scholarship
11 fund for its youth; the Union has also been host to visiting
12 dignitaries and scholars from Slovenia; and

13 WHEREAS, The Slovenian Union of America became a nonprofit
14 organization in 2011, dedicated to educating its members and
15 the general public about Slovenian customs and the history of
16 Slovenian-Americans and their contributions to society; and

17 WHEREAS, The organization's national office and Slovenian
18 Heritage Museum are housed in the Stonich across from St.
19 Joseph Church on Chicago Street in an area the City of Joliet
20 has designated as "Slovenian Row" in honor of the Slovenian
21 immigrants who once lived and operated businesses there;
22 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 congratulate Joliet Branch 20 of the Slovenian Union of America
4 on its 90th anniversary and wish its members many more
5 wonderful years; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Joliet's Branch 20 as a symbol of our respect and
8 esteem.