



HR0129

LRB101 11114 ALS 56333 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Southern Illinois
4 University on the occasion of its sesquicentennial
5 anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1868, educators in southern Illinois held
7 meetings throughout the area to discuss the need for a teacher
8 training school in the lower half of Illinois; the General
9 Assembly passed the charter establishing Southern Illinois
10 Normal University on March 9, 1869, and the charter was signed
11 by Governor John Palmer on April 9, 1869; and

12 WHEREAS, The University opened in 1874, and the first class
13 had 54 students; the first graduating class consisted of 143
14 students, including two African-American students; and

15 WHEREAS, Southern Illinois Normal University's enrollment
16 grew, and by the late 1930s, the administration and alumni
17 began petitioning the Governor and the General Assembly to
18 expand the university's offerings to include liberal arts
19 degrees in anticipation of increased enrollment following the
20 conclusion of World War II; and

21 WHEREAS, On June 30, 1943, the General Assembly granted

1 Southern Illinois Normal University the ability to grant
2 liberal arts degrees and master's degrees in education; in
3 1947, the 65th General Assembly dropped "Normal" from the
4 university's name, and it became known as Southern Illinois
5 University; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the next few decades, enrollment and academic
7 programs grew substantially, and university officials took
8 notice of the lack of opportunities for higher education in the
9 Metro East area; in 1957, the university purchased the defunct
10 Shurtleff College and began enrolling and educating students;
11 in 1960, land was purchased, and classes began at the Southern
12 Illinois University at Edwardsville campus in 1965; and

13 WHEREAS, The University continued to expand and
14 established the Southern Illinois University School of
15 Medicine in Springfield in 1970; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, Southern Illinois University is a strong,
17 diverse, student-centered, research-intensive, comprehensive
18 university that embraces a unique tradition of inclusive
19 excellence, innovation, and outstanding teaching to transform
20 the lives of students; and

21 WHEREAS, Southern Illinois University's 150th anniversary
22 celebration includes a Day of Giving on March 6, 2019;

1 throughout the year, the University will celebrate with special
2 exhibits, lecture series, and campus and community events;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate Southern Illinois University on 150 years of
7 service to southern Illinois and beyond; we admire their
8 commitment to excellence in teaching and research and to
9 providing a transformative educational experience for all
10 students; we wish them 150 more years of excellence; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to President J. Kevin Dorsey as an expression of our
14 esteem and respect.