



HR0165

LRB101 11452 ALS 57132 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives would like to declare African Methodist
4 Episcopal (AME) Church Day on March 27, 2019 and welcome the
5 AME Church leaders and congregants from the Fourth Episcopal
6 District to the Capitol; and

7 WHEREAS, The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born
8 through adversity and grew out of the Free African Society
9 (FAS), which was established in Philadelphia by Richard Allen,
10 Absalom Jones, and others in 1787; due to racial discrimination
11 at St. George's MEC, members made plans to transform their
12 mutual aid society into an African congregation; Bethel AME was
13 dedicated in 1974 with Richard Allen as its pastor; and

14 WHEREAS, The geographical spread of the AMEC prior to the
15 Civil War was mainly restricted to the Northeast and Midwest;
16 the denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850s;
17 the most significant era of denominational development
18 occurred during the Civil War and Reconstruction; because of
19 its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon line, AME membership
20 reached 400,000; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, the African American Methodist Episcopal
22 Church has membership in 20 Episcopal Districts in 44 countries

1 on five continents; the work of the Church is administered by
2 21 active bishops and nine General Officers, who manage the
3 departments of the Church; Reverend John Franklin White is the
4 130th Elected and Consecrated Bishop and is the Presiding
5 Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of the AME Church
6 (AMEC); he supervises AME Churches and pastors in Canada,
7 Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois;
8 his wife, Mrs. Penny Hartsfield White, is the Episcopal
9 Supervisor of the Fourth District; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Day at the Capitol
13 on March 27, 2019 and wish the AME continued success in its
14 mission to minister to the social, spiritual, and physical
15 development of all people.