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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM on the occasion of her 100th birthday on August 21, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, A beloved icon on the campus of Loyola University Chicago, Sister Jean has become an international celebrity thanks to her role as chaplain of the Loyola Ramblers men's basketball team, rising to stardom as she joined the team during their historic 2018 NCAA March Madness run; and

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WHEREAS, Sister Jean was born the first of three children in a devout Catholic family to Joseph and Bertha Schmidt in San Francisco on August 21, 1919; and

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WHEREAS, When she was in third grade, Sister Jean was inspired by the joy, kindness, and devotion of her teacher, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM); Sister Jean would later say that when she prayed as a child, her prayer would be, "Please God tell me what I should do ... but please tell me that I am to be a BVM"; and

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WHEREAS, Sister Jean left her home in San Francisco during September of 1937 for a two-day, three-night train trip to

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1 Dubuque, Iowa to begin a six-month period as a postulant, or
2 candidate, with the BVMS; and

3 WHEREAS, On March 19, 1938, she was officially received
4 into the BVMS, taking on the order's traditional habit and her
5 new religious name, Sister Jean Dolores; and

6 WHEREAS, After professing her final vows as a BVM in
7 Dubuque on August 15, 1945, Sister Jean was assigned to teach
8 at St. Charles Elementary School in North Hollywood,
9 California, where she started a sports program, coaching
10 women's basketball, softball, volleyball, track, ping-pong,
11 and yo-yo; and

12 WHEREAS, Sister Jean continued to teach for 20 years in
13 several elementary schools in the Los Angeles Archdiocese until
14 the summer of 1961, when she arrived on the campus of Mundelein
15 College in Chicago after completing her master's degree at
16 Loyola University, Los Angeles and began teaching college
17 courses for the first time; and

18 WHEREAS, Sister Jean held numerous roles at Mundelein
19 College over the next 30 years; she was named Acting Dean of
20 Mundelein College in 1970, afterwards serving as Director of
21 Coffey Hall for four years, in addition to already serving as
22 Associate Dean and Director of Summer Sessions; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1984, Sister Jean ended her tenure as Associate
2 Dean and Director of Academic Services, becoming Associate Vice
3 President for Academic Affairs at Mundelein College; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1991, Mundelein College become affiliated with
5 Loyola University Chicago, and Sister Jean joined Loyola
6 University as Assistant Dean and an academic advisor; and

7 WHEREAS, Sister Jean took on a new role in 1994 with the
8 Loyola men's and women's basketball teams, helping the players
9 keep their grades high enough to remain eligible to play,
10 calling herself the "Booster Shooter"; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1996, Sister Jean transitioned from her role as
12 an academic advisor to official team chaplain for the men's
13 basketball team, where she long maintained a key role in
14 supporting the team, offering both spiritual support and
15 practical advice on the players' game performance; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to her work with the Loyola University
17 basketball team, Sister Jean held a weekly prayer group for
18 students in her Regis apartment and launched the SMILE program
19 (Students Moving Into the Lives of the Elderly) in 2009,
20 pairing Loyola students with residents at the Clare, a
21 retirement home next door to the Water Tower Campus; and

1 WHEREAS, Sister Jean received numerous honors in her time
2 at Loyola University, including a Doctor of Humane Letters
3 honorary degree from the university in 2016, induction into the
4 Loyola Athletics Hall of Fame in 2017 and receiving the Sword
5 of Loyola, the university's highest honor, at the 2018
6 Founders' Dinner; and

7 WHEREAS, Sister Jean has devoted her lifetime to serving
8 others, touching the lives of countless people, especially
9 students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other members of the
10 Loyola community; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we congratulate Sister Jean Dolores on her 100th birthday on
14 August 21, 2019; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Sister Jean as a symbol of our respect and esteem.