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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Rammelkamp Bradney,
4 P.C. law firm as they celebrate the 125th anniversary of their
5 founding; and

6 WHEREAS, The firm now known as Rammelkamp Bradney was
7 founded in Jacksonville in 1895 by L.O. Vaught, a former
8 schoolteacher turned lawyer who graduated from Illinois
9 College and the University of Illinois College of Law; and

10 WHEREAS, In the late 1920s, L.O. Vaught added his nephews
11 Orville Foreman and Ed Cleary as his first law partners, with
12 the firm then becoming Vaught, Cleary, and Foreman; with the
13 onset of World War II in 1941, Foreman and Cleary temporarily
14 suspended their law practices to serve their country; Foreman
15 returned to the firm in 1945, while Cleary opted to become a
16 law professor at the University of Illinois upon his return in
17 1946; Cleary later became one of the authors of the original
18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; and

19 WHEREAS, Theodore "Ted" Rammelkamp Sr. joined the firm in
20 1948 after his distinguished military service saw him flying
21 over 30 missions in the European and North African theaters in
22 World War II; together, Foreman and Rammelkamp Sr. spearheaded

1 the firm's municipal law practice and formed an industrial
2 corporation that secured over 1,000 jobs for returning
3 veterans; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Bradney, a Jacksonville native and alumnus
5 of Illinois College and Harvard Law School, joined the firm in
6 1950; he later became the first recipient of the Illinois State
7 Bar Association's Board of Governors Award in 1981 and a member
8 of the first class of Illinois Lawyer Laureates of the Illinois
9 Bar Association in 2000; and

10 WHEREAS, Barbara Fritsche joined the firm in 1982, the
11 first female attorney to practice law in Morgan County;
12 Rammelkamp Bradney remained the only law firm in Jacksonville
13 to employ women as lawyers until 2015; H. Allen Yow joined the
14 firm in 1989, and he further served the legal profession as the
15 Chairman of the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Character
16 and Fitness for the Fourth Judicial District; and

17 WHEREAS, Rammelkamp Bradney was recognized as a Centennial
18 Business by the Illinois State Historical Society in 1995 as it
19 celebrated its 100th anniversary; in the same year, the firm
20 hosted its first employment law seminar to educate local
21 businesses on the laws that affect their relationships with
22 employees; today, the firm hosts several employment law
23 seminars per year; and

1 WHEREAS, The firm expanded its operations by opening a
2 satellite office in Springfield in 2000 and established an
3 office in Winchester in 2003; the Springfield office relocated
4 to a larger building at 741 South Grand Avenue in 2008, where
5 it remains to this day; and

6 WHEREAS, For a majority of its existence, the law firm's
7 name changed to reflect its then current partners; that
8 practice ended in 2005 when the firm permanently fixed its name
9 as Rammelkamp Bradney to honor two of its most prominent
10 attorneys, Theodore "Ted" Rammelkamp and Robert Bradney; and

11 WHEREAS, Today, Rammelkamp Bradney consists of six
12 partners, three associate attorneys, and one "of counsel"
13 attorney working out of offices in Jacksonville and
14 Springfield; and

15 WHEREAS, Rammelkamp Bradney continues to build upon its
16 foundation of professionalism and to work to adapt to meet the
17 needs of its clients, which are ever-evolving; it is recognized
18 as one of the most respected law firms in Illinois; therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate the Rammelkamp Bradney, P.C. law firm as they
2 celebrate the 125th anniversary of their founding, and we wish
3 them many more successful years; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the Rammelkamp Bradney law firm as an expression
6 of our respect and esteem.