



HR0413

LRB102 19181 LAW 27946 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the citizens of Rockford
4 and Ferentino, Italy on the occasion of the 15th anniversary
5 of their sister city partnership; and

6 WHEREAS, Rockford has a substantial Italian American
7 population that celebrates its ancestral heritage, including
8 many families and individuals that tie their ancestral roots
9 to Ferentino, an ancient hill town southeast of Rome; and

10 WHEREAS, Immigrants to Rockford from Ferentino founded the
11 Society of Saint Ambrogio Martyr Mutual Benefit Society (Saint
12 Ambrogio Society) in 1918, which is still in active operation
13 today; and

14 WHEREAS, Efforts to create an Italian sister city to
15 Rockford began in 2005 through family ties between the
16 DeCastris and Giorgi families in both Rockford and Ferentino,
17 leading to robust community efforts to formalize the lasting
18 connections that have linked the people of Rockford and
19 Ferentino for over a century; and

20 WHEREAS, The Italian Sister City Committee was formed in
21 Rockford in 2005 to facilitate the ongoing communication

1 between citizens and officials from Rockford and Ferentino to
2 promote and support a sister city agreement between the two
3 cities; and

4 WHEREAS, A delegation of nine public officials from the
5 Ferentino City Council and the Pro Loco Association visited
6 Rockford for a week in May 2006, where they took part in
7 several official meetings and activities that culminated in
8 the signing of a sister city agreement by Mayor Larry
9 Morrissey of Rockford and Mayor Piergianni Fiorletta of
10 Ferentino at Rockford City Hall on May 15, 2006; and

11 WHEREAS, Italian sister city activities have included
12 international exchanges, student pen pal programs, peace pole
13 installations in Rockford and Ferentino, gift exchanges,
14 creation of the Italian Sister City garden and plaque at
15 Rockford's Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza, participation in the
16 Rockford Sister Cities Advisory Commission, and cultural
17 displays at the Rockford and Ferentino City Halls, and at
18 Rockford's Festa Italiana, Midway Village Museum, and Ethnic
19 Heritage Museum; and

20 WHEREAS, The 15th anniversary of this historic event is
21 being celebrated this year with several commemorative
22 activities undertaken by the Rockford Italian Sister Cities
23 Alliance (RISCA) in conjunction with the Greater Rockford

1 Italian American Association (GRIAA); therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we congratulate the citizens of Rockford and Ferentino, Italy
5 on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their sister city
6 partnership; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
8 presented to the cities of Rockford and Ferentino and
9 representatives of the RISCA and GRIAA organizations as an
10 expression of our esteem and respect.