



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus Mattoon Council No. 1057  
3 is celebrating its 100th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary this year;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Knights of Columbus Mattoon Council No. 1057  
6 (Council) was granted a charter by the Supreme Council of New  
7 Haven, Connecticut, on November 26, 1905; on that day, an  
8 initiation was held and a charter class of fifty members was  
9 received into the order; from its very first meeting to the  
10 present time, the Council's records of meetings give evidence  
11 of its years of assistance to others; and

12 WHEREAS, The Council has upheld the highest standards of  
13 dedication in providing service to its church, its community,  
14 and its nation for a century; following the formation of the  
15 Council, the new members worked to increase their ranks and to  
16 put into practice the principals of Columbianism, which are  
17 unity, fraternity, charity, and patriotism, in Immaculate  
18 Conception Parish and in the Mattoon community; and

19 WHEREAS, In early years, the Matoon Council was confronted  
20 with the problems common to many at the time, such as racial  
21 bigotry and religious intolerance; in the early 1900s, the  
22 Knights were in the forefront proclaiming the brotherhood of  
23 all men and put into practice the Christian ideals of racial  
24 understanding and religious tolerance; the Knights again took  
25 the lead in the 1930s in trying to alleviate the suffering of  
26 many in the community, as members concentrated on helping the  
27 priests of the parish with many of the functions and in taking  
28 leadership posts when school or parish projects were  
29 undertaken; and

30 WHEREAS, As World War II progressed, the Council started  
31 its blood donor project, which is still one of its most

1 important continuing projects; the Mattoon Council also became  
2 more active in other areas, such as polio fund drives, numerous  
3 youth programs, and school and church renovation projects; it  
4 was also during this time that the Council answered the call of  
5 the Bishops to aid and assist the Newman Program for students  
6 in public colleges and universities, which has grown to become  
7 the number one priority project in the State, with the Council  
8 now raising over \$1,300 per year for this vital program; and

9 WHEREAS, Following the war, the Council was instrumental in  
10 providing and erecting the war memorial for the deceased  
11 servicemen from the Mattoon community that still stands in  
12 front of the Mattoon City Hall along with the eternal flame; in  
13 the 1950s, the Council took on important leadership roles in  
14 fundraising projects for St. Mary's School and St. Joseph  
15 School of Immaculate Conception parish and implemented more  
16 family related activities; in the 1960s, the Council joined  
17 with the Knights of Columbus nationwide and made a greater  
18 commitment to help the young people of its parish by  
19 participating in activities such as teaching CCD classes,  
20 assisting Boy Scout groups and similar organizations, and  
21 providing various social functions for the youth; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1971, a seemingly small project of selling  
23 "Tootsie Rolls" in order to raise a few dollars for programs  
24 for the mentally handicapped was adopted by the Council; few  
25 realized at the time how this project would grow to become one  
26 of the continuing activities of the Council involving the  
27 enthusiastic participation of the majority of its members and  
28 an annual goal of nearly \$10,000, with almost \$250,000 raised  
29 over the past 34 years; and

30 WHEREAS, Over the past quarter of the century, the Council  
31 has sponsored and organized the Annual Knights of Columbus  
32 Picnic on the Immaculate Conception Church grounds, which has  
33 become quite a successful event, as it provides a venue for all

1 of the parish organizations to participate and raise funds for  
2 their individual causes; the Council has also been nationally  
3 recognized numerous times by being awarded the Star Council  
4 Award, the highest award granted by the Supreme Council and  
5 four members of the Council have been elected to the Hall of  
6 Fame of the Springfield Diocese Chapter of the Knights of  
7 Columbus; and

8 WHEREAS, The Council has worked diligently to maintain and  
9 grow its works of charity; a recent accounting of contributions  
10 over the last 10 years shows that the Council has contributed  
11 over \$300,000 to numerous charities, churches, St. Mary's  
12 School, youth groups, and vocations; and

13 WHEREAS, The Council has remained very involved in parish  
14 activities; it assisted the parish with fundraising efforts for  
15 a new parish center and formed "The Apostles", a group of  
16 parishoners who volunteer their assistance with maintenance  
17 and repairs around the church, school, parish center, and  
18 rectory; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we congratulate the Knights of Columbus Mattoon Council No.  
22 1057 on the occasion of the organization's 100th anniversary;  
23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
25 presented to the Knights of Columbus Mattoon Council No. 1057  
26 as an expression of our esteem and with best wishes for the  
27 organization's future success.