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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the  
4 administration, staff, and students of the Harrisburg School  
5 District on the occasion of its 150th anniversary in 2011; and

6           WHEREAS, The rich history of the Harrisburg School District  
7 began in October of 1861, when Green B. Weir was elected to  
8 serve as director of the school board; B. D. Grace, William  
9 Riley, J. W. Mitchell, James Feazel, and W. H. Dove were  
10 subsequently picked to serve on the school board over the next  
11 four years; and

12           WHEREAS, The Harrisburg School District's first school  
13 building was a one room house on the corner of Church and Vine  
14 streets; eventually, the room proved to be too small to  
15 accommodate the number of pupils, leading the directors to rent  
16 another room in the town; by 1865, the number of pupils had so  
17 increased that the directors saw the necessity for having a  
18 larger building, and an election was ordered for October 27,  
19 1865 to vote on the question of purchasing a school house site;  
20 in April of 1866, the site was bought for \$200; the following  
21 month, the school board voted to borrow money to build a school  
22 house; in 1868, the building was furnished and three teachers  
23 were employed; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1875, the Harrisburg School District attempted  
2 to institute a new teaching plan where an additional teacher  
3 was employed to teach in the school's upstairs space, which  
4 effectively made two separate schools in the same room; despite  
5 the inconvenience, the plan appeared to operate effectively; in  
6 1879, the directors decided to try a new, ultimately  
7 unsuccessful plan where the school would have no principal,  
8 with each room being an independent school run by a male  
9 teacher; around this time, the school had become so overcrowded  
10 that it was necessary to make more room and employ more  
11 teachers; subsequently, in 1881, bonds in the amount of \$2,000  
12 were issued and two new teachers were employed; and

13           WHEREAS, By 1877, the Harrisburg School District census had  
14 increased to over 500 and it was necessary to again make more  
15 room; as the population of the west end of the district had  
16 greatly increased, a lot was purchased from J. M. Baker for  
17 \$500 as a school site and the lower story of the West Side  
18 school house was erected by J. P. Hodge at a cost of \$1,402;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, In 1890, a great many changes were made to the  
21 Harrisburg School District; the district's terms were  
22 lengthened to nine months, the salaries of the teachers were  
23 increased, and it was decided to employ no teachers except

1 those having successful experience in the department in which  
2 they wished to be employed; in addition, the schools were  
3 re-graded, a high school was organized, the district's course  
4 of study was revised, and a system of diplomas was created; in  
5 1894, a second story was added to the West Side schoolhouse; in  
6 1899, a new grade was added to the course of study; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1900, another year was added to Harrisburg  
8 School District's course of study; the following year, the  
9 people of Harrisburg Township voted to erect a building for the  
10 high school; after voting for \$20,000 in bonds, a site was  
11 given to the township by the City National Bank free of charge;  
12 in 1903, the cornerstone of the high school was laid; in 1904,  
13 the building was completed, with classes moving into the new  
14 building in September of 1904; and

15 WHEREAS, The Harrisburg School District continued to grow  
16 rapidly throughout the early 1900s; in 1914, a new addition was  
17 constructed to the rear of the first unit; in 1922 and 1923,  
18 the third unit to the east was added; in 1929, an athletic  
19 field was purchased and equipped at an initial cost of \$26,000,  
20 which was, at the time, the largest field in southern Illinois;  
21 by 1938, the district's enrollment had reached nearly 1,200,  
22 and a fourth unit to the west was added; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, the Harrisburg School District continues

1 the legacy of excellence created by Green B. Weir and his  
2 associates 150 years ago; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we congratulate the administration, staff, and students of the  
6 Harrisburg School District on the occasion of its 150th  
7 anniversary; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the Harrisburg School District as a symbol of our  
10 esteem and respect.