



HR0481

LRB097 12626 KXB 57112 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives join in celebrating the Universalist Unitarian
4 Church of Joliet's 175 years of worship and service to the
5 Joliet community; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1836, a small group of Universalists gathered
7 together in a town that was then called 'Juliet'; from the
8 beginning to their present day, they have maintained a common
9 focus, to build community; it has continued to be the strength
10 of the congregants to dwell together in peace, to seek
11 knowledge in freedom, and to serve humanity in fellowship; the
12 congregation has continued to serve the community, from those
13 early beginnings, by being actively involved in local politics,
14 commerce, and the educational development of its citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, People of national prominence, including Theodore
16 Roosevelt and Thomas Starr King, spoke from the Auditorium
17 Block dais; Joliet history was made within the walls of this
18 building; plans and programs for a growing city originated here
19 as well as cultural activities of all kinds; city, county, and
20 school boards all met in the building regularly; Joliet
21 Township High School was planned here; and the first Rotary
22 Club meetings were held in the building; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1950, members of the church were active in
2 community affairs such as: The League of Women Voters, the
3 Y.M.C.A., the Rotary Club, the Lion's Club, and the Kiwanis
4 Club; the Church also held religious education activities in
5 which local children participated; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1962, the Joliet church voted to become part of
7 the newly forming "Unitarian Universalist Association"; one of
8 the church members served on the national board for the merger;
9 to retain a sense of history and roots, the congregation voted
10 to keep "Universalist" first in its name which became known as
11 the "Universalist Unitarian Church of Joliet, Illinois"; and

12 WHEREAS, The congregation purchased a bank site located on
13 the Westside of Joliet at the corner of Jefferson Street and
14 Houbolt Road; after remodeling, the congregation dedicated the
15 facility on Sunday, October 1, 2010; it is the church's current
16 home and place of religious community; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout the history of UUCJ, the people have
18 celebrated their diversity in faith which encompasses
19 individual searches for truth through Judaism, Ethical and
20 Theological Christianity, Ethical Religion, Agnosticism,
21 Atheism, Bahai Faith, Buddhism, Deism, Earth-Based Religions,
22 Humanism, Mysticism, Paganism, Pantheism, Polytheism, and
23 Skepticism; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we celebrate, along with the members of the Universalist
4 Unitarian Church of Joliet, the 175th anniversary of the church
5 and its service to the Joliet community; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to Michael N. Gorcowski as a symbol of our respect
8 and esteem.