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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the past and  
4 present instructors and administrators of Jacksonville School  
5 District #117 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the  
6 District's Music Department; and

7           WHEREAS, In 1911, a dedicated individual, Mrs. Ailsie  
8 Goodrick, was hired to create and develop a choral department  
9 at Jacksonville High School; her work resulted in the Treble  
10 Clef Club for young women and the Glee Club for young men; she  
11 served as the sole music instructor for the next two years; in  
12 1913, her husband came on to develop instrumental music, which  
13 he did in the form of the JHS Band and Orchestra; and

14           WHEREAS, Since the Goodricks' pioneering work, the Music  
15 Department of District #117 has had many passionate and  
16 talented members, including: Miss Lena Hopper (1917-1946), who  
17 led the choral music department for the next 30 years and was  
18 given the title of Supervisor of Music in 1937; Miss Carol  
19 Hitchcock (1941), a graduate of Jacksonville's own MacMurray  
20 Conservatory of Music; Mr. G. Lloyd Schultz (1942-1944), who  
21 brought instrumental music to other schools in the District  
22 before being called to duty in World War II; Miss Bonnie Kent  
23 (1945), another MacMurray graduate; Mr. Elbert Edelbrock

1 (1946), who had directed one of many World War II Army bands  
2 and was assisted at the grade school level by Mr. Oscar  
3 Schutte; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1947, a young and talented Mr. Jim Welch took  
5 over District #117's Music Department, remaining there until  
6 1979; during his tenure, the Music Department grew  
7 dramatically, expanding to include various committed teachers,  
8 including Mr. John Hayter and Mr. Richard Moorhouse  
9 (Orchestra), Mr. Philip Falcone and Mr. Donald Lord (Chorus),  
10 Mrs. Elaine Peebles and Mrs. Joyce Pratt (Elementary Choral),  
11 and Mr. Marshall Fowler and Mr. Charles Groce (Junior High  
12 Bands); after becoming the Director of Music Education for  
13 District #117 in 1969, Mr. Welch and his students went on to  
14 earn many honors and accomplishments throughout his 32 years of  
15 service; and

16 WHEREAS, Since Mr. Welch's tenure, the Music Department has  
17 continued this tradition of excellence, including superior  
18 instruction and leadership from Mr. Marshall Fowler  
19 (1979-1984), whose marching band was also able to achieve  
20 multiple awards and achievements; Mr. Les Fonza (1984-1986),  
21 who was instrumental in the development of the Jazz Band; Mr.  
22 Steve Jones (1986-2003), whose robust and eclectic knowledge of  
23 music improved all aspects of student learning and performance;  
24 and Mr. Steve Thorne (2004-present), who continues this

1 dedication to music to this day; and

2 WHEREAS, The Music Department of Jacksonville School  
3 District #117 has stood as a model of fortitude, commitment,  
4 and love of music to the people of the State of Illinois for an  
5 entire century; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we congratulate Jacksonville School District #117 on the  
9 occasion of the 100th Anniversary of its Music Department and  
10 wish the Music Department and its students continued success in  
11 the future; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to Jacksonville School District #117 as a symbol of  
14 our esteem and respect.