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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Elder Edwin Lee  
4 Harris and the congregation of St. Mark Missionary Baptist  
5 Church of Harvey on the occasion of Elder Harris' installation  
6 as Pastor of St. Mark; and

7           WHEREAS, St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church began as a  
8 bible study group in the home of Deacon Kiser and Sister Mary  
9 Wright; on April 15, 1959, under the leadership of Rev. James  
10 P. Neal and 5 other members, the bible study group organized  
11 and became St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church; in August of  
12 1968, they purchased a small frame house at 14618 Lincoln  
13 Avenue, in Harvey, where service was held until 1986; since  
14 then, a multi-building complex was built to accommodate a  
15 remarkable growth in membership; St. Mark's has approximately  
16 30 ministries designed to meet the needs of over 3,000 members  
17 and the community at large; and

18           WHEREAS, Elder Edwin Harris received Jesus as his Lord and  
19 Savior in October of 1992; he has been a member of St. Mark  
20 Missionary Baptist Church for the past 18 years; he accepted  
21 his calling into the ministry and was licensed to preach on  
22 November 14, 1997, and appointed as an Elder in January of  
23 2003; he was subsequently elevated to the office of Executive

1 Pastor in August of 2005; after serving under the direction of  
2 the late Bishop William Jordan, Elder Harris was ordained on  
3 July 30, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, In his role as Executive Director of Ministries,  
5 Elder Edwin Harris works closely with the leaders of the 30  
6 ministries of St. Mark and serves as a source of direction,  
7 guidance, and leadership; in his previous role of Executive  
8 Pastor, he served and worked closely with the St. Mark  
9 leadership in assuring the realization of the church's vision;  
10 in working closely with the late Bishop Jordan, Presiding  
11 Prelate of the St. Mark Covenant Churches Fellowship (SMCCF),  
12 Elder Harris took on the responsibility of Annual Convocation  
13 Coordinator for the SMCCF as well as working closely with the  
14 Adjutants of the local church and with the Fellowship; after  
15 the passing of Bishop William Jordan, he was selected to be St.  
16 Mark's pastor on August 27, 2011; he will be the sixth pastor  
17 of St. Mark's since its founding in 1959; and

18 WHEREAS, Elder Edwin Harris and his loving wife, Beverly  
19 Harris, have three children, Jeremy, Kaylin, and Nadia; and

20 WHEREAS, Elder Edwin Harris will be installed as Pastor of  
21 St. Mark over several days of celebration beginning on October  
22 13, 2011; the celebration will culminate with his installation  
23 on October 16, 2011 at 4:00 P.M.; 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 congratulate Elder Edwin Lee Harris and the congregation of  
4 St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of Elder  
5 Harris' installation as Pastor of St. Mark and wish them  
6 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it  
7 further

8           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to Elder Edwin Lee Harris and the congregation of St.  
10 Mark Missionary Baptist Church as a symbol of our esteem and  
11 respect.