



HR1026

LRB097 21347 GRL 69209 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of the  
4 Ainad Shriners on the occasion of the organization's 100th  
5 anniversary in 2012; and

6           WHEREAS, Ainad Shriners was created on May 8, 1912, with an  
7 initial membership of 105; however, an initial committee of 35  
8 businessmen discussed the possibility of joining a new  
9 organization within the Masonic Fraternity in order to promote  
10 fun and fellowship during a meeting on April 19, 1912; by  
11 December of 1913, the group's membership had increased to 259;  
12 the group was granted a charter into Shriners International on  
13 May 13, 1913, becoming temple number 130 in the United States  
14 and the 4th of 5 temples in the State of Illinois; the  
15 organization was named "Ainad", after the Arabic word for  
16 "obstinacy", by the Imperial organization; and

17           WHEREAS, Thomas L. Fekete served as the first Ainad  
18 potentate (leader) of the Ainad Shriners, serving as temporary  
19 leader until the charter was issued on May 13, 1913; he then  
20 served as the Illustrious Potentate for the charter year of  
21 1913; the Shriners met regularly at the Scottish Rite Temple at  
22 14th and College in East St. Louis, and at numerous other  
23 locations in St. Louis and East St. Louis, from 1912 to 1923;

1 the organization began construction on the Shrine Center in  
2 June of 1922 and finished construction by September of 1923;  
3 the building still stands at 609 St. Louis Avenue in East St.  
4 Louis; the building was dedicated on November 24, 1922 and  
5 remains the largest auditorium in the city; throughout the  
6 building's 90-year history, countless public and charitable  
7 events have been held there; and

8 WHEREAS, Ainad Shriners have had numerous committees to  
9 provide additional support for the activities of the growing  
10 membership, including by-laws, charitable, entertainment,  
11 hotel, membership, transportation, and special functions of  
12 the membership; the organization utilizes an open forum for the  
13 creation of initiatives, with the Potentate appointing special  
14 committees to investigate an idea or solution to an issue  
15 regarding the membership; the creation of committees to  
16 investigate and solve internal issues is still done today; and

17 WHEREAS, On March 18, 1924, Major Frank L. Reardon  
18 addressed Ainad Shriners on behalf of the United States  
19 Department of War, requesting the permission to use Ainad  
20 Temple as a mobilization point for infantry and artillery  
21 regiments in times of war; during World War II, the building  
22 was used as a mustering, or gathering of units, prior to  
23 departure for the European or Asian theaters for battle;  
24 incoming units would drill in the building's auditorium and

1 basement; during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the United States  
2 Army established a communications unit at the temple; the  
3 building was also a regional headquarters for Civil Defense  
4 until the mid-1970s; and

5 WHEREAS, Ainad Shriners has supported local charities  
6 throughout southern Illinois; the Shriners have provided  
7 support to numerous local and national organizations,  
8 including the Boy Scouts of America, the Elks Club, Knights of  
9 Columbus, the St. Clair County Humane Society, the St. Clair  
10 County Tuberculosis Society, the United Jewish Relief Fund, and  
11 countless others; the organization's members have helped many  
12 people who have been affected by natural disasters; in 1923,  
13 the Shriners supported the newly-created Shriners Hospital in  
14 Shreveport, Louisiana, which was created in response to the  
15 rapid spread of polio and other pediatric and orthopedic  
16 medical issues; and

17 WHEREAS, On June 1, 1924, the Ainad Shriners band, drum  
18 corps, and patrol units participated in a parade for the sole  
19 purpose of dedicating the opening of Shriners Hospital for  
20 Crippled Children, formerly located off of Kingshighway in St.  
21 Louis; the units provided entertainment following the  
22 dedication ceremonies; today, 22 Shriners Hospitals for  
23 Children are located throughout North America; the hospital  
24 system provides medical care for burn victims, spinal cord

1 injuries, cleft lip and pallet, and numerous other pediatric  
2 and orthopedic medical issues; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, Ainad Shriners is the ninth largest temple  
4 of 195 Shrine centers throughout the world; with a membership  
5 of approximately 4,600, Ainad is the largest of the five Shrine  
6 centers in Illinois; during the late 1970s, its membership grew  
7 to as many as 10,000 throughout Southern Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the past 100 years, Shriners have been active  
9 throughout Southern Illinois in parades, festivals, paper  
10 crusades, and membership ceremonials; Ainad Shriners are all  
11 Free Masons who reside in virtually every community of Southern  
12 Illinois and are active in most every type of business,  
13 profession, and field of endeavor; and

14 WHEREAS, The members of Ainad Shriners exemplify the  
15 application of the Masonic teachings of truth, brotherly love,  
16 helping others, and affirming that all mankind is created  
17 equal; and

18 WHEREAS, The Ainad Shriners will celebrate its 100th  
19 anniversary with a year of public events, including parades in  
20 Effingham and Belleville, membership drives, and circus shows  
21 in Belleville, Waterloo, Jerseyville, Olney, Salem and  
22 DuQuoin, and events at numerous festival and homecomings

1 throughout the State; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we congratulate the members of the Ainad Shriners on the  
5 occasion of the organization's 100th anniversary, thank them  
6 for their dedicated service to the people of the State of  
7 Illinois, and wish them success and happiness in their future  
8 endeavors; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the Ainad Shriners as a symbol of our esteem and  
11 respect.