



HR1028

LRB097 21331 KXB 69150 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The historic community of St. Francisville was
3 formed in 1812 on the sandstone bluff of the mighty Wabash
4 River; and

5 WHEREAS, St. Francisville is one of the oldest settlements
6 in Illinois and was founded in 1812 by a man named Joeseeph
7 Tougaw, who built a fort to protect the residents; later he
8 founded a river ferry at the Port of St. Francisville; and

9 WHEREAS, In the early years, a button factory created jobs
10 and attracted residents; men would search for mussels in the
11 Wabash River to bring back to the factory; sometimes the men
12 would find valuable pearls; since the days of the button
13 factory, other business have found hope in St. Francisville;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, A seed company formed in 1936 by Clarence Akin,
16 now known as AgriGold, now serves over 400 countries; a popcorn
17 seed company named Black Jewel Popcorn was established by Merle
18 Litherlandin and others in the mid 1960s and is now sold across
19 the country; St. Francisville once had its own newspaper and it
20 is still published inside the pages of the Bridgeport Leader;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, The Big Four Railroad ran through St.
2 Francisville, crossing the Wabash River to Indiana; when the
3 train no longer serviced St. Francisville, it was converted to
4 a bridge so cars could cross the river; years later, the City
5 of Francisville opened the Cannonball Bridge, a blessing for
6 residents who travel to jobs, doctors, and shopping; and

7 WHEREAS, There are various events which are dear to the
8 residents in the city of St. Francisville; the Women's Club of
9 St. Francisville organized its first Chinese Chestnut Tree
10 Festival in 1976 which continues to this day, serving as a
11 reunion for former residents and an attraction for visitors;
12 2012 will be the 37th annual festival; and

13 WHEREAS, There is an annual fish fry in July, held at the
14 river, to raise money for city needs and help make the
15 Cannonball Bridge possible; the Fire Department also serves
16 chowder on Labor Day to help with the needs of the volunteer
17 Fire Department; and

18 WHEREAS, The town of only 800 is the home to 5 churches and
19 the St. Francisville Christian Academy; and

20 WHEREAS, The residents take pride in the history of their
21 wooden bridge, the old log cabin, the revolutionary cemetery,
22 and being home to one of the oldest Catholic churches along the

1 Wabash River; and

2 WHEREAS, The men and women of St. Francisville are proud of
3 their country, with many of the St. Francisville residents
4 serving in the Armed Forces, and others giving their lives for
5 freedom; and

6 WHEREAS, St. Francisville will officially celebrate its
7 Bicentennial from July 5, 2012 to July 8, 2012; therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate the citizens of St. Francisville as they
12 celebrate the 200th anniversary of their community; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the Mayor of St. Francisville as a symbol of our
16 respect and esteem.