



HR0130

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor John Norman Brown of Park
4 Forest on his many accomplishments in scouting and service to
5 youth and the 63rd anniversary of his membership in the Order
6 of the Arrow, scouting's National Honor Society; and

7 WHEREAS, John Brown grew up in West Woodlawn, a vibrant,
8 predominantly African American neighborhood on Chicago's south
9 side that included poet Gwendolyn Brooks, playwright Lorraine
10 Hansberry, University of Iowa All-American football player
11 Duke Slater, and the family of Emmett Till; and

12 WHEREAS, John Brown began his scouting career in 1945 when
13 he joined Troop 1542 sponsored by Woodlawn African Methodist
14 Episcopal Church; his first summer camp experience came in 1946
15 at Camp Belnap, a camp for African American Scouts at the
16 Owasippe Scout Reservation, the Chicago council's camp on Lake
17 Michigan; he earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1949 and was
18 inducted into the Order of the Arrow in 1950; he became a
19 member of the Takodah Chapter that served the Douglas District,
20 which comprised all African American units in the council; and

21 WHEREAS, John Brown entered the U.S. Army in 1953 and
22 served as a Signal Corps intelligence specialist in Germany

1 until 1955; he attended Rocky Mountain College in Billings,
2 Montana, and then began his 32-year teaching career at Carter
3 Elementary School on the south side of Chicago; he remained in
4 scouting throughout this time; he sealed his Brotherhood
5 membership in 1964, kept his Vigil in 1972, and was given the
6 name "Tall Pine Tree"; he attended every national Order of the
7 Arrow conference since 1965, having sung in the Brotherhood
8 Chorus several times; he served as a national jamboree Order of
9 the Arrow Service Corps Scoutmaster in 1973, 1981, and 1993; he
10 was scoutmaster at the 1971 World Jamboree in Japan and served
11 on the staff at world jamborees in Holland, England, and
12 Sweden; and

13 WHEREAS, John Brown was honored with the Order of the Arrow
14 Distinguished Service Award in 1994; he has also received the
15 Silver Beaver and Silver Antelope Awards and the Founder's
16 Award from Michigamea Lodge serving northeast Illinois and
17 Northwest Indiana; and

18 WHEREAS, John Brown continues to devote time and energy to
19 scouting; he worked on the National Scoutreach Committee from
20 1997 to 2009 and served as trainer at Philmont Training Center
21 in Cimarron, New Mexico; he serves on the Calumet Executive
22 Board and with Troop 120's committee sponsored by New Faith
23 Baptist Church in Matteson, where he attends; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we honor John Brown on his commitment to scouting and helping
4 the youth of the State and we wish him well in all his future
5 endeavours; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That as suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to John Brown as an expression of our esteem and
8 respect.