



HR1138

LRB098 21491 GRL 60008 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are honored to congratulate the members of the Itoo Society of Peoria on the occasion of its 100th anniversary on July 4, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, The Itoo Society of Peoria is a charitable organization that was founded on July 4, 1914 by 46 men who emigrated from the village of Aytou, Lebanon and settled in Peoria between 1887 and 1914; and

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WHEREAS, The Itoo Society of Peoria was founded in 1914 as the Itoo Reform and Progress Society; the name was changed in 1951; at its inception, the Itoo Society was envisioned as an organization dedicated to both charitable and fraternal purposes; it has lived up to that goal by helping its members and the villagers of Aytou, Lebanon in times of misfortune, as well as working with many local and national charities; and

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WHEREAS, In November of 1928, a group of 18-20 women decided to cook a meal to serve to their friends in the Peoria community, with the proceeds to help pay the mortgage of the original Itoo Hall; that tradition has continued each year as the Itoo Supper, one of the oldest ethnic festivals in the State of Illinois; in June of 1968, the first Itoo Shish-Ka-Bob

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1 was held to complement the Itoo Supper; these festivals'
2 specialties have been wonderful Lebanese food, served along
3 with the legendary hospitality of the Itoo Society; and

4 WHEREAS, Recognizing the strong link between the
5 communities of Aytou, Lebanon and Peoria and the fact that the
6 heritage of over 6,000 area residents are linked to Aytou,
7 Lebanon, the Peoria City Council recently sealed the bond
8 between the 2 communities by officially making Aytou, Lebanon a
9 Sister City of Peoria; and

10 WHEREAS, The Itoo Society has been the anchor for most of
11 the Lebanese-Americans living in central Illinois, providing a
12 strong link to their rich heritage; the founders of the Itoo
13 Society instilled in their descendants a strong faith and
14 devotion to God, a love of family, the knowledge of how to be
15 contributing members of society through hard work and to be
16 proud of their Lebanese heritage, and a profound love of the
17 United States of America; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate the members of the Itoo Society of Peoria on
21 the occasion of its 100th anniversary and wish then continued
22 success in the future; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the Board of Directors of the Itoo Society as an
3 expression of our esteem and respect.