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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is the first national black denomination in the country; it was founded by a former slave, activist, and abolitionist Richard Allen in Philadelphia in 1816 and other members who broke away from St. George's Methodist Church in protest of racial discrimination; and

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WHEREAS, The Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, founded in Waukegan in 1904, is Lake County's 2nd oldest black congregation; and

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WHEREAS, Trinity AME Church was established by a small group of Christian men and women, including its first pastor, Reverend Harry Johnson; in 1913, the congregation built its first church at 541 Oak Street on Waukegan's South Side; and

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WHEREAS, Forty-three years later, the burgeoning congregation held an estimated 600 families under the leadership of Reverend Robert Thomas, who administrated the new church building at the current location of 210 South Avenue; and

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WHEREAS, Trinity AME Church is known as the birthplace of many churches in Lake County because numerous other churches,

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1 including Shiloh Baptist, Mount Zion Baptist, and Eternal
2 Flame, as well as dozens of pastors, sprang from its
3 membership; and

4 WHEREAS, The church served as a leader in the civil rights
5 movement in Lake County; it was noted by longtime member and
6 historian Barbara Gordon that, "There was a time when blacks
7 couldn't go anywhere else to hold a meeting. This was the place
8 that you could come to hold your meetings."; and

9 WHEREAS, Volunteers from the church help run a free weekly
10 farmers market for neighborhood residents in the month of
11 August, the same month that it holds CaresFest, an annual
12 back-to-school event that includes a giveaway of up to 1,000
13 backpacks stuffed with various supplies; and

14 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1970s, the church's community
15 center provided social services to the neighborhood that
16 included free meals, a food bank, counseling, and child care;
17 the church was also known for its stirring and heavily attended
18 annual Easter Pageant; and

19 WHEREAS, The church is active in outreach efforts by
20 various church groups, which include support for orphanages in
21 South Africa, other overseas missions, the adoption of a
22 Hurricane Katrina family, student clothing drives for nearby

1 Carman-Buckner School and residents at a battered women's
2 shelter, HIV/AIDS awareness, recognition of aging veterans,
3 Habitat for Humanity, visits to the sick and homebound, health
4 and wellness activities, and much more; and

5 WHEREAS, Trinity AME Church's first female pastor,
6 Reverend Janice Brazil Cummings, came to the church in November
7 of 2012; she is known for her compassion, community outreach,
8 and teaching on the abundant life; and

9 WHEREAS, The Trinity AME Church's 110th Year Anniversary
10 theme is "Celebrating Our Past, Honoring the Present and
11 Embracing our Future"; the church will celebrate the milestone
12 on September 13, 2014; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
15 we congratulate the congregation of Trinity AME Church on the
16 occasion of the church's 110th anniversary and wish the
17 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Trinity AME Church as a symbol of our esteem
21 and respect.