



HR0596

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, After Illinois adopted its first Constitution on August 26, 1818, it joined the Union as the 21st state on December 3, 1818; and

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WHEREAS, Since its incorporation into the United States of America, Illinois has had 2 official State flags; the first was adopted on July 6, 1915 and the second was adopted on July 1, 1970; for its first 97 years of existence, however, the State of Illinois did not officially adopt a State flag; and

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WHEREAS, In 1911, while on a visit to Washington D.C., Ella Park Lawrence, the State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, noticed that the State of Illinois did not have a flag or symbol located in the organization's Memorial Continental Hall; determined to have Illinois adopt a flag, she wrote countless letters to members of the General Assembly in order to have a bill filed creating a State flag; so sincere was her effort that she offered a \$25 prize to the Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution chapter that submitted the best design for a flag; and

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WHEREAS, A total of 35 designs were submitted to the Daughters of the American Revolution-sponsored contest; in the end, a 4-person panel decided on the submission of Miss Lucy

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1 Derwent of the Rockford Daughters of the American Revolution
2 Chapter; the design, which placed the Great Seal of the State
3 of Illinois before a plain, white background, was simple, yet
4 emphatic and plenary; and

5 WHEREAS, With the Daughters of the American Revolution
6 competition complete and a winning design selected, State
7 Senator Raymond D. Meeker introduced the bill that was to
8 legalize the flag; Senator Meeker's bill passed both houses and
9 became law on July 6, 1915, thereby becoming the Flag Act of
10 1915; and

11 WHEREAS, The Flag Act represented the first official
12 endorsement of a State flag; however, it did not necessarily
13 create a monolithic, uniform symbol; various flag
14 manufacturing companies failed to create a standard design, as
15 each reproduction seemed to deviate from the other; in some
16 cases, the colors would modified in order to cater to different
17 settings, such as weddings, funerals, and dinners; over 50
18 years passed before further changes to the flag were made in
19 order to address concerns of uniformity and distinctiveness;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In 1968, Chief Petty Officer Bruce McDaniel of
22 Waverly was serving a tour of duty in Vietnam; the Illinois
23 flag was one of many state flags that were hung on the walls of

1 his mess hall, yet he was concerned that there was nothing in
2 the Illinois flag that distinctly demarcated or represented the
3 State of Illinois; he subsequently wrote his representative
4 seeking a remedy; and

5 WHEREAS, Upon receiving CPO McDaniel's request to modify
6 the design to make it more easily recognizable as Illinoisan,
7 State Representative Jack E. Walker sponsored legislation to
8 amend the original Flag Act of 1915; Representative Walker's
9 bill added the State's name to the flag, yet failed to address
10 the issues which had given way for non-conformity in the flag's
11 design and reproduction; and

12 WHEREAS, Then-Governor Richard B. Ogilvie appointed a flag
13 committee made up of the State Historian, the Director of the
14 Illinois Information Service, and the State Records Archivist
15 that was entrusted with the task of ascertaining proper flag
16 design specifications; the committee produced a list of 5
17 recommendations that they believed would ensure uniformity in
18 reproduction of design and color by flag makers; Florence
19 Sanford Hutchinson of Greenfield submitted a flag design that
20 abided by all the required elements stipulated under the
21 committee's specifications; and

22 WHEREAS, On July 1, 1970, the amendments to the Flag Act
23 went into effect; the sun, water, rock, land, shield, ribbon,

1 eagle, and name of the State of Illinois became the codified
2 components of the flag; and

3 WHEREAS, While there may be things that divide us here in
4 the State of Illinois, many more things unite us; the flag,
5 which contains the words "State Sovereignty, National Union,"
6 is a symbol that was crafted by the faithful hands of a
7 Daughter of the American Revolution; 100 years later, that
8 symbol signifies that much more to every Illinoisan; therefore,
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 celebrate the centennial of the flag of the State of Illinois;
13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of the this resolution be
15 presented to the Rockford Chapter of the Daughters of the
16 American Revolution as a token of our sincere appreciation for
17 their continued commitment to American history, education, and
18 patriotism both in Winnebago County and the State of Illinois.