



HR0965

LRB100 21407 ALS 38060 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives would like to recognize African Methodist  
4 Episcopal (AME) Day and welcome the AME leaders and congregants  
5 from the Fourth District to the Capitol on April 18, 2018; and

6           WHEREAS, The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born  
7 through adversity and grew out of the Free African Society  
8 (FAS), which was established in Philadelphia by Richard Allen,  
9 Absalom Jones, and others in 1787; due to racial discrimination  
10 at St. George's MEC, members made plans to transform their  
11 mutual aid society into an African congregation; Bethel AME was  
12 dedicated, with Richard Allen as its pastor, in 1794 and is the  
13 oldest, continuously-owned property in America; and

14           WHEREAS, The geographical spread of the AMEC prior to the  
15 Civil War was mainly restricted to the Northeast and Midwest;  
16 the denomination reached the Pacific Coast in the early 1850s;  
17 the most significant era of denominational development  
18 occurred during the Civil War and Reconstruction; because of  
19 its rapid spread below the Mason-Dixon line, AME membership  
20 reached 400,000; and

21           WHEREAS, Today, the African American Methodist Episcopal  
22 Church has membership in 20 Episcopal Districts in 39 countries

1 on five continents; the work of the Church is administered by  
2 21 active bishops and nine General Officers, who manage the  
3 departments of the Church; The Rt. Reverend John Franklin White  
4 is the Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of the  
5 AME Church (AMEC); he supervises AME Churches and pastors in  
6 Canada, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and  
7 Illinois; his wife, Mrs. Penny Hartsfield-White, is the  
8 Episcopal Supervisor of the Fourth District; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
11 recognize African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Day at the Capitol  
12 on April 18, 2018 and wish the AME continued success in its  
13 mission to minister to the social, spiritual, and physical  
14 development of all people.