



HR0126

LRB097 10538 GRL 50871 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the students,
4 teachers, and staff of St. Patrick's School on the occasion of
5 the school's 155th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, The rich history of St. Patrick's School began in
7 the late 1850's, when Miss Shepherd conducted parochial school
8 services in a house on the 600 block of West Prairie in
9 Decatur; after Miss Shepherd left in 1858, various teachers
10 took her place in the years leading up to the Civil War,
11 teaching children in various houses throughout the city; in
12 1857, Father Thomas Cusack built a modest frame church on the
13 700 block of West Prairie; this building was used as a two-room
14 school by Mr. and Mrs. St. Leger; and

15 WHEREAS, Following Mr. and Mrs. St. Leger's departure,
16 seven Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary arrived from
17 Montreal, Canada and opened the St. Teresa Academy; St. Teresa
18 Academy was short-lived, however, and the parochial school came
19 back under the guidance of secular teachers; throughout the
20 late 1800s, the school was under the tutelage of the Ursuline
21 Order, who decided to teach both boys and girls at the academy
22 starting in 1882; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1912, Father Murphy began to make plans for a
2 new school building on Jackson and North Streets, which was
3 completed in February of 1913; the following year, the Ursuline
4 Order vacated the St. Patrick school grounds and the parochial
5 school was renamed St. Patrick School; and

6 WHEREAS, The early 20th century was a period of robust
7 growth for St. Patrick School; in 1929, St. Patrick opened a
8 high school for boys and girls on the Academy grounds; the
9 church's numbers flourished in the subsequent years; and

10 WHEREAS, With the coming of Father Powell in 1945, St.
11 Patrick School completely renovated their building and updated
12 the school's equipment to become a first-rate school in its own
13 right; today, St. Patrick School serves as a leader in quality
14 parochial education in the City of Decatur, the State of
15 Illinois, and the world at large; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate the students, teachers, and staff of St.
19 Patrick's School on the occasion of the school's 155th
20 anniversary and wish them continued success and happiness in
21 the future; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to St. Patrick's School as a symbol of our esteem and
2 respect.