



HR0143

LRB097 11027 GRL 51922 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, For almost a century, the written history of the State of Illinois was formed under the French flag; and

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WHEREAS, French monetary grants, ships, officers, men, arms, and supplies ensured the success of the American Revolution; and

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WHEREAS, Marquis de Lafayette, a French army officer, outfitted, crewed, and supplied a French ship he named Victory at his own expense; he then sailed the vessel to South Carolina in support of the American Revolution, arriving in June of 1777; and

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WHEREAS, After arriving in the colonies, Marquis de Lafayette was appointed to serve as an aide to General George Washington; and

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WHEREAS, Marquis de Lafayette was appointed as a major general of American militia troops by General Washington; and

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WHEREAS, Marquis de Lafayette was wounded by British musket fire while fighting alongside General Washington during the Battle of Brandywine in 1777; and

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1 WHEREAS, This gallant French officer became a war hero in
2 both France and the newly-formed United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Of all the leading heroes of the American
4 Revolution, Marquis de Lafayette's name ranks fourth in the
5 most common geographical site names in the United States, after
6 George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Following the birth of his first-born son on
9 Christmas Eve of 1779, Marquis de Lafayette named the child
10 George Washington Lafayette in honor of his friend and
11 brother-in-arms; and

12 WHEREAS, Marquis de Lafayette revisited the United States
13 and the State of Illinois at the invitation of President James
14 Monroe in 1824; during his visit, he was offered citizenship by
15 numerous U.S. states; and

16 WHEREAS, Marquis de Lafayette was the author of the French
17 Declaration of the Rights of Man, a document based upon the
18 Declaration of Independence; he was also the man who ordered
19 the destruction of the hated French Bastille during the French
20 Revolution; and

21 WHEREAS, In honor of Marquis de Lafayette, U.S. soldiers

1 during World War I created the battle cry, "Lafayette, we are
2 here"; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we designate June 7, 2011 as a fete a jour day in honor of
6 Marquis de Lafayette and his courageous efforts to help our
7 nation gain independence.