



HR0320

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the
4 administration, teachers, and students of James Harvey Bowen
5 High School in Chicago on the occasion of the school's 100th
6 anniversary; and

7 WHEREAS, The James Harvey Bowen High School now enters its
8 second century of providing a facility for the young citizens
9 of South Chicago to obtain a quality education; and

10 WHEREAS, Named after a young entrepreneur, founder of the
11 Calumet and Chicago Canal and Dock Company, and chairman of the
12 Republican State Central Committee at the time of President
13 Abraham Lincoln's assassination, James Harvey Bowen High
14 School's current building was built in 1910 to replace the old
15 structure on 93rd and Houston Avenue that was built as an
16 elementary school in 1876; the building opened with 14 students
17 enrolled in a one-room class; the structure was eventually
18 enlarged to serve children of all elementary grade levels and
19 four rooms were allocated for high school work; the building
20 then served as a branch until 1960 and was subsequently razed;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Designed by famed school architect Dwight

1 Perkins, a Prairie School contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright,
2 Bowen High School's current building was built for an
3 enrollment of 1,400; by the mid-1930s, however, its student
4 body had burgeoned to 4,600 due to the migration of Polish,
5 Slavic, and other immigrants into South Chicago; in 1970, a new
6 gymnasium, 30 new classrooms, four large study halls, and a
7 two-story library were erected; and

8 WHEREAS, As the population of South Chicago grew, Bowen
9 High School came to be considered one of the city's finest high
10 schools; throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Bowen tradition of
11 academic excellence continued; by 1965, 73% of the senior class
12 went on to college; as a cultural and education institution
13 serving today's youth under the auspices of the Chicago High
14 School Redesign Initiative, Bowen was divided into four "small
15 schools" in 2002: the Chicago Discovery Academy, BEST or the
16 Bowen Environmental Studies Team, the Global Visions Academy,
17 and the New Millennium School of Health; these four
18 "schools-within-a-school" are funded by the Chicago Board of
19 Education and receive additional support from the Bill and
20 Melanie Gates Foundation; each small school has an enrollment
21 of about 400 students, is staffed by certified teachers, and
22 has its own principal; and

23 WHEREAS, Bowen High School graduates have influenced the
24 arts, industry, law, and government; the school has been the

1 alma mater of many talented, successful, and famous people from
2 vastly diverse fields of endeavor, such as renowned drummer
3 Gene Krupa, Hollywood director Andrew Davis, and late radio
4 personality Ed Schwartz; this historic educational institution
5 continues to meet the educational needs of future generations
6 who will call the South Chicago neighborhood their home;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate the administration, teachers, and students of
11 James Harvey Bowen High School in Chicago on the occasion of
12 the school's 100th anniversary; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 prepared and presented to James Harvey Bowen High School as a
15 symbol of our respect and esteem.