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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Quinn Chapel  
4 African Methodist Episcopal Church in Chicago, which  
5 celebrated its 166th anniversary on July 21, 2013; and

6           WHEREAS, Quinn Chapel is the oldest African American church  
7 in the City of Chicago and is believed to be the sponsor of one  
8 of the longest-running African American events in the city, the  
9 "June Rose Concert", of which the 118th concert was performed  
10 on June 9, 2013; and

11           WHEREAS, Quinn Chapel was started in 1844 by a prayer group  
12 of 7 members, 7 years after the City of Chicago was  
13 incorporated; the first group met in the home of John Day,  
14 located at what is now an alley between Randolph and Lake  
15 Streets; as the group grew, they relocated to the home of Maria  
16 Parker, one of the organizers of the Prayer Band; by 1846, the  
17 growing size of the congregation necessitated another move and  
18 they settled into an old school house located at State and  
19 Madison Streets and began the application process of becoming  
20 accepted as a congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal  
21 Church; on June 22, 1847 the Prayer group became an official  
22 congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was  
23 named in honor of Bishop William Paul Quinn, the African

1 Methodist Episcopal Missionary who organized many churches in  
2 Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri; and

3 WHEREAS, Quinn Chapel has stood at its present location on  
4 South Wabash Avenue since 1891; before moving to its current  
5 location, it was destroyed twice by fire, the first time being  
6 during the "Great Chicago Fire" of 1871; and

7 WHEREAS, Quinn Chapel is rich in history; prior to the  
8 Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, it played an important role  
9 in the abolition movement in Chicago and served as a station  
10 for the Underground Railroad; notable speakers at the church  
11 have included Presidents William B. McKinley and William Howard  
12 Taft; educators George Washington Carver and Booker T.  
13 Washington; poet and literary genius Paul Lawrence Dunbar;  
14 abolitionist and orator Frederick Douglas; journalist and  
15 activist Ida B. Wells; women suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony;  
16 and preachers Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., Reverend Dr.  
17 Martin Luther King, Jr., and Reverend Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.;  
18 in recent years, Governors Pat Quinn and Rod Blagojevich, Mayor  
19 Richard M. Daley, Congressmen Danny K. Davis, Bobby Rush, and  
20 Jesse Jackson, Jr., and then-Senator Barack Obama have spoken  
21 at the church; and

22 WHEREAS, Quinn Chapel was placed on the National Register  
23 of Historic Places in 1979 by the Joint Commission on

1 Landmarks; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we congratulate Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal  
5 Church which celebrated its 166th anniversary and wish them  
6 many more successful years; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to Quinn Chapel as an expression of our esteem and  
9 respect.