

No. R-530. Senate concurrent resolution commemorating the centennial anniversary of the journey of the children from Lawrence, Massachusetts to Barre during the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike.

(S.C.R.46)

By Senators Doyle, Cummings, Illuzzi and Pollina,

Whereas, the year 2012 marks the centennial of the famed textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, known as the Bread and Roses Strike, and the great city of Barre played a crucial role in the strike as it unfolded, and

Whereas, the citizens of Barre lent their generous support to the people of Lawrence from the earliest days of the Bread and Roses Strike, and

Whereas, the Italian granite workers in Barre took special pride in their friendship with the textile workers of Lawrence, and the granite workers staged plays and other events and solicited contributions in order to raise funds for the striking Lawrence textile workers, and

Whereas, the Barre granite workers opened their homes and their hearts to a group of 35 children of the Lawrence textile workers, and

Whereas, a crowd of 1,000 and three brass bands greeted the Lawrence children when they arrived at the train depot, and the children and the welcoming Barre residents then paraded around City Hall Park up North Main Street to Granite Street and on to the Socialist Labor Party Hall, and

Whereas, the Lawrence children were treated to a banquet and musical entertainment at the Labor Hall, and

Whereas, the Italian granite workers of Barre took the children into their homes for a month and these visiting youngsters attended the local schools and were not allowed to work during their Vermont visit, and

Whereas, the story of the Lawrence children's journey to Barre caught the attention of the national press and the wife of President Taft, who attended congressional hearings on the conditions in the Lawrence textile mills, and

Whereas, the children's exodus from Lawrence to Barre was the key factor in bringing about a positive settlement of the Bread and Roses Strike, and

Whereas, the dramatic story of the Lawrence children's journey inspired author Katherine Paterson of Barre, who is the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature of the Library of Congress, to write the award-winning book *Bread and Roses, Too*, which has been read by children all over the world, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the centennial anniversary of the journey of the Lawrence children to Barre during the 1912 Bread and Roses Strike, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Barre Historical Society and the Aldrich Public Library in Barre.