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1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 41

March 20, 1997 - Introduced by Representatives NASS, DOBYNS, OLSEN, HAHN, OWENS, PLOUFF, SCHAFER, LORGE, BOYLE, RYBA and RUTKOWSKI, cosponsored by Senator ZIEN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

Relating to: requesting the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recommend 1 2 issuing a stamp commemorating Henry Martyn Robert. 3 Whereas, Henry Martyn Robert (1837–1923) was an officer in the U.S. army and an active member of several religious, civil and educational societies at each of 4 5 the locations where he was stationed; and 6 Whereas, his experience presiding at a meeting convinced him that that task 7 was much more difficult than it appeared to be and that he knew little about it; and Whereas, Mr. Robert, a conscientious and meticulous person, became 8 9 determined to learn about parliamentary procedure; and Whereas, his investigation into that subject showed him that different rules 10 11 prevailed in different parts of this country and that there were a number of books on 12 the subject, none of which was universally accepted; and 13 Whereas, he decided to try to end this chaos by writing a book on parliamentary 14 procedure that all societies and elected bodies could adopt, perhaps with minor 15 changes that fit local conditions; and

Whereas, he began to write that book in 1874 in Milwaukee; and

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Whereas, his book, *Robert's Rules of Order*, was immediately recognized as a rational treatment of the subject, millions of copies of it have been purchased and it is widely used; and

Whereas, Henry Martyn Robert's achievement has greatly facilitated the work of thousands of deliberative bodies; and

Whereas, while creating his masterpiece he learned much not only about the rules under which deliberative bodies should conduct their business but also about the spirit in which they should do so, for he once remarked "The great lesson for democracies to learn is for the majority to give to the minority a full, free opportunity to present their side of the case, and then for the minority, having failed to win a majority to their views, gracefully to submit and to recognize the action as that of the entire organization, and cheerfully to assist in carrying it out, until they can secure its repeal"; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature request the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to recognize the tremendous service that Henry Martyn Robert has rendered to the operation of 2 cornerstones of this country, elected deliberative bodies and voluntary associations, by recommending that a commemorative stamp be issued in his honor; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.

(END)