HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113
BY JACOBSEN

1 A Resolution honoring Father Raphael Assamah for his
dedication and service to the residents of Hamburg,
Iowa, during the floods of 2019.
2 WHEREAS, the devastating floods of March 2019
brought disaster to the lives and livelihoods of
residents of southwest Iowa; and
3 WHEREAS, historic levels of flooding in the Missouri
River basin killed several people, left thousands of
people homeless, and devastated farms, fields, and
local businesses; and
4 WHEREAS, the flood victims found strength and
resolve to rebuild from a faith source in the form of
Father Raphael Assamah; and
5 WHEREAS, when Father Assamah arrived to take
his post as pastor of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in
Hamburg, Iowa, he did not know that he would be the
right man for the right job at the right time, for he
was chosen to protect his parish from both the flood
and COVID-19; and
6 WHEREAS, while flooding rivers devastated towns
and villages along their banks, they also took a toll
on the spirits of residents, but the raging Missouri
and Nishnabotna rivers were no match for the 5-foot,
7-inch, sturdily built and energy-filled priest from
the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana; and
8 WHEREAS, Father Assamah’s Hamburg parish had
completely flooded and was only accessible by boat or
helicopter, and most items that residents attempted to
salvage had to be disposed of; and
WHEREAS, fearing the devastation would lead his small parish to despair, Father Assamah deployed a power mightier than mere raging rivers: the power of faith, hope, and charity; and
WHEREAS, Father Assamah knew that praying together would strengthen the community’s resolve to build together, hope would make the community’s future brighter, and charity would bring the community’s members together with the larger community of the Diocese of Des Moines; and
WHEREAS, despite the church building being under water, the members of the parish were not as Father Assamah kept the community together and moved the Catholic congregation to higher ground at the First Baptist Church, where they prayed, planned, and rebuilt their town despite the new challenge of COVID-19; and
WHEREAS, the time has come for Iowans to express their gratitude; NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That the House of Representatives honors Father Raphael Assamah for his efforts, care, and devotion to the residents of Hamburg, Iowa, during the floods of 2019; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives thanks Father Assamah for his service and designates him an honorary Iowan; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa, and the Archbishop of the
Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana.