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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate and right to honor those great
3 American figures who have served our nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Michelle LaVaughn Robinson Obama was born in 1964
5 in Chicago to Fraser Robinson III and Marian Shields Robinson;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Michelle Obama attended the Whitney M. Young
8 Magnet High School, the city's first magnet high school for
9 gifted children, where, among other activities, she served as
10 student government treasurer; in 1981, she graduated as class
11 salutatorian; and

12 WHEREAS, Following in her older brother Craig's footsteps,
13 Michelle Obama attended Princeton University, graduating cum
14 laude in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; and

15 WHEREAS, Michelle Obama went on to earn her Juris Doctor
16 from Harvard Law School in 1988; at Harvard, she participated
17 in demonstrations advocating the hiring of professors who were
18 members of minorities and worked for the Harvard Legal Aid
19 Bureau, assisting low-income tenants with housing cases; and

20 WHEREAS, After graduating from Harvard Law School,

1 Michelle Obama joined the Chicago law firm Sidley & Austin,
2 where she later met Barack Obama, a summer intern to whom she
3 was assigned as an adviser; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1991, Michelle Obama decided to leave corporate
5 law and pursue a career in public service, working with people
6 to serve their communities and their neighbors; she served as
7 Assistant Commissioner of Planning and Development in
8 Chicago's City Hall before becoming the founding executive
9 director of the Chicago chapter of Public Allies, an AmeriCorps
10 program that helps young adults develop skills for careers in
11 public service; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1996, Michelle Obama joined the University of
13 Chicago with a vision of bringing the campus and community
14 together; as Associate Dean of Student Services, she developed
15 the university's first community service program; and

16 WHEREAS, Beginning in 2002, under Michelle Obama's
17 leadership as Executive Director for Community Affairs for the
18 University of Chicago Medical Center, volunteerism
19 skyrocketed; and

20 WHEREAS, In May of 2005, Michelle Obama was appointed Vice
21 President for Community and External Affairs at the University
22 of Chicago Medical Center, where she continued to work

1 part-time until shortly before her husband's inauguration as
2 president; and

3 WHEREAS, As first lady of the United States, Michelle Obama
4 focused her attention on issues such as the support of military
5 families, helping children lead healthier lives, and
6 encouraging national service; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2010, Michelle Obama launched Let's Move!, a
8 nationwide effort to address the challenge of childhood
9 obesity; and

10 WHEREAS, Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden worked together
11 to launch Joining Forces, a nationwide initiative calling all
12 Americans to rally around service members, veterans, and their
13 families and support them through wellness, education, and
14 employment opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, 2014, Michelle Obama launched the Reach Higher
16 Initiative, an effort to inspire young people across America to
17 take charge of their future by completing their education past
18 high school; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
21 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the former Dan Ryan

1 Expressway including Interstate 90 and Interstate 94 from I-290
2 to the split of I-57 and I-94 (Bishop Ford) as the "Michelle
3 Obama Expressway"; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
5 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
6 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
7 giving notice of the name "Michelle Obama Expressway"; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
10 distributed to the Secretary of the Department of
11 Transportation and to former First Lady Michelle Obama.