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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The institution of marriage is one of the
3 cornerstones upon which our society is built, and a marriage
4 that has achieved a notable longevity is truly a model for the
5 people of the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
7 Representatives are pleased to honor Theodis and Essie Leonard
8 on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary on
9 December 26, 2007; Theodis and Essie Leonard met in Lexington,
10 Mississippi at Ambrose High School in 1953; they were married
11 in Chicago on December 26, 1957; and

12 WHEREAS, Theodis and his wife Essie pursued careers as
13 educators for over 30 years in the Chicago Public School
14 system; Theodis served as a counselor, teacher, and assistant
15 principal before retiring as the principal of Ignace Paderewski
16 Elementary School; Essie served as a teacher in business and
17 special education, retiring after 34 years of service; and

18 WHEREAS, The Leonards have been pillars in their community;
19 Theodis has served as a lay leader in the Episcopal A.M.E.
20 Church, The Westside Recreation Association, The Chicago
21 Teachers Union, and the Chicago Principal Administrators
22 Association; Essie was involved in promoting and enhancing the

1 youth by sponsoring the Chicago Public School Academic
2 Decathlon, as a member of the Chicago Teachers Union, and by
3 raising their family with Christian values as members of the
4 Carey Tercentenary Episcopal A.M.E. Church and residing on the
5 west side of Chicago for over 35 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Born to their union are Doris Renee Turner,
7 Valerie Faye Leonard, Theodis Raymond Leonard, and Curtis Allen
8 Leonard; they have created a home filled with Christian love
9 and one accord, which can be attested by their children,
10 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, godchildren, and the
11 adults that have adopted them as parents, mentors, and lifelong
12 friends; they have exemplified the stability of mutual respect
13 and Christian love that serves as the foundation of strong
14 relationships; and

15 WHEREAS, Respect for marriage reaches one of its highest
16 plateaus when a couple such as Theodis and Essie celebrate
17 their 50th wedding anniversary; Theodis and Essie stand as
18 examples of the best of our society, and their love and
19 devotion to each other and to their family and friends reminds
20 us that unwavering commitment, mutual respect, and
21 unconditional love are the core characteristics of a lifelong
22 union between two people; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
2 congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Theodis Leonard on the occasion of
3 their fiftieth wedding anniversary; that we commend them for
4 the achievement of a marriage based on a strong and stabilizing
5 foundation, which was blessed by the birth of their children
6 and their children's children and their great-grandchildren,
7 and the abundance of family love and friendship; and that we
8 wish them continued success, happiness, and good health as they
9 continue to share their legacy of love; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Mr. and Mrs. Theodis Leonard as a symbol of our
12 respect and esteem.