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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Polish Constitution Day has been celebrated in Chicago, home of the largest Polish community outside of Warsaw, Poland, for 115 years; and

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WHEREAS, The Polish Constitution was the first democratic constitution in Europe and the second in the world after the United States Constitution; it was ratified on May 3, 1791; and

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WHEREAS, The Polish Constitution demonstrates the commitment of Poles to human rights, to protection from jail without a trial, and to religious freedom, especially for European Jews, who at the time faced discrimination in most European nations; and

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WHEREAS, Poles celebrate the Constitution for its ideals, that liberty and independence are vital to the strength of a people and a nation, and that a government that does not respect the rights of its people cannot and should not survive; and

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WHEREAS, Polish Constitution Day was celebrated with a parade in Chicago on May 5, 2012; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate May 3,
2 2012 as "Polish Constitution Day" in the State of Illinois; and
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we stand with Illinois' Polish community in
5 showing our appreciation for the commitment to democracy
6 expressed in the Polish Constitution.