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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, President Barack H. Obama served as the 44th President of the United States of America from January 20, 2009 to January 20, 2017; he was the first African American elected to the American Presidency, and the first President born out of the continental United States; and

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WHEREAS, President Obama attended Occidental College in Los Angeles, California and graduated from Columbia University in New York in 1983; he attended Harvard Law School, where he was the first African American editor of the Harvard Law Review; he taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School for 12 years and served the City of Chicago as a community organizer; and

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WHEREAS, President Obama represented the 13th Senate District in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004; and

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WHEREAS, President Obama was elected to represent Illinois in the United States Senate in 2004 with over 70% of the vote; and

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WHEREAS, President Obama was elected President in 2008 with just under 53% of the popular vote; he was re-elected in 2012; and

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1 WHEREAS, As President, President Obama signed into law the
2 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which saved the nation
3 from the worst of effects of the Great Recession; he also
4 signed into law the Dodd-Frank financial institution
5 regulations to help the nation avoid another economic
6 catastrophe; and

7 WHEREAS, President Obama has been a progressive leader on
8 numerous issues including, domestic policy, LGBTQ rights,
9 women's rights, healthcare, economic policy, environmental
10 policy, energy, gun control, internet policy, and foreign
11 policy; and

12 WHEREAS, President Obama reduced the number of U.S. troops
13 committed internationally; he signed the Paris Agreement and
14 negotiated a successful nuclear deal with Iran; he oversaw the
15 opening of relations between the U.S. and Cuba; and

16 WHEREAS, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act,
17 providing healthcare to millions and protecting millions more
18 from being denied for pre-existing conditions; and

19 WHEREAS, President Obama was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace
20 Prize for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen
21 international diplomacy and cooperation between people; and

1 WHEREAS, The Barack Obama Presidential Center will be
2 hosted by the University of Chicago and will be located in
3 Jackson Park on the South Side of Chicago; once completed it
4 will become the 14th site in the National Archives and Records
5 Administration presidential library system; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
8 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Interstate 55 as it
9 travels from the Tri-State Tollway to East St. Louis as the
10 "Barack Obama Presidential Expressway"; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
12 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
13 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
14 giving notice of the name "Barack Obama Presidential
15 Expressway"; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to President Obama and the Secretary of the
18 Department of Transportation.