



HR0045

LRB101 06180 ALS 51203 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the Chicago Montford Point Marines Association; and

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WHEREAS, The Montford Point Marines Association is a nonprofit military veteran's organization founded to memorialize the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps, who were restricted to a segregated boot camp in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and served from 1942 until 1949; and

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WHEREAS, The National Montford Point Marines Association is dedicated to serving veterans and the community, and they have 36 chapters throughout the United States, along with several chapters of the Ladies Auxiliary; the association is comprised solely of veterans and volunteers, and its mission is to preserve the legacy and perpetuate the memory, spirit, and comradeship of the original members; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Montford Point Marine Association was established after a reunion of the Montford Point veterans in August 1965; the Chicago chapter has 35 members, including four of the men who served in the first group of black Marines, known as the "Original 400"; in Chicago, the group's chapter

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1 operates out of a building in Englewood, which has served as a
2 community meeting space, resource center, and safe haven for
3 veterans for more than 50 years; and

4 WHEREAS, The Chicago Montford Point Marine Association
5 supports and promotes activities for the social betterment and
6 enlightenment of the community, and, over the years, the
7 group's scholarship program has given \$40,000 to students;
8 their Christmas Basket program has donated \$50,000 to shut-in
9 veterans and needy families, and a back-to-school program has
10 provided over 1,000 book bags to children; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we recognize the past sacrifices of the Chicago Montford Point
14 Marines Association members, commend the Chicago Montford
15 Point Marines Association for their continued contributions to
16 their community, and encourage the citizens of Illinois to
17 support the organization as it struggles to continue to fulfill
18 its mission; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the Chicago Montford Point Marines Association as
21 an expression of our esteem and respect.