



HR0483

LRB101 13279 ALS 62121 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Following World War I, during the summer and fall  
3 of 1919, race riots occurred in more than three dozen cities,  
4 including Chicago; it was branded the "Red Summer" because the  
5 riots resulted in some of the worst violence in United States  
6 history; and

7           WHEREAS, After World War I, an estimated 100,000 black  
8 veterans moved North, where they still encountered  
9 segregation, racism, and inequality; in Chicago, the "presence  
10 and inspiration of black veterans, particularly those of the  
11 370th Infantry Regiment" was critical to black Chicagoans  
12 forced to "defend themselves from white aggression; and

13           WHEREAS, One of the most severe race riots occurred in  
14 Chicago between July 25, 1919 and August 3, 1919; the riot was  
15 triggered when a black teen was stoned to death after crossing  
16 an invisible boundary between a segregated part of the Chicago  
17 beaches; when police refused to arrest the white man whom black  
18 observers held responsible for the incident, crowds began to  
19 gather at the beach; the riot left 38 people dead, more than  
20 500 injured, and 1,000 black families homeless after fires  
21 burned their homes; and

22           WHEREAS, The Red Summer marked a new era of black

1 resistance to white injustice, with African Americans standing  
2 up in unprecedented numbers and killing some of their  
3 tormenters; researchers believe that in a span of ten months  
4 more than 250 African Americans were killed in at least 25  
5 riots across the United States; the white mobs never faced  
6 punishment; many African American soldiers returning from the  
7 war were outspoken against the racial discrimination,  
8 inequality, and violence that continued to plague black  
9 communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Black journalists, including Ida B. Wells, played  
11 an important role in getting the story told; black newspapers,  
12 like the Chicago Defender, were instrumental in providing an  
13 alternate voice that represented why African Americans  
14 deserved to be here, deserved equal rights, and were, in some  
15 cases, justified in fighting; and

16 WHEREAS, Nearly 100 years later, not many people know about  
17 the events of the Red Summer; there are no national  
18 observances, history textbooks ignore it, and most museums do  
19 not acknowledge it; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we declare July 29, 2019 as "Red Summer Remembrance Day" in the  
23 State of Illinois in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of

1 the Red Summer and urge the City of Chicago to erect a monument  
2 that includes the names of the victims on the site of the riot  
3 along with additional historical signage placed on highway,  
4 street, and expressway signs leading to the site; and be it  
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
7 presented to Governor JB Pritzker, Illinois Attorney General  
8 Kwame Raoul, and Mayor of Chicago Lori Lightfoot.