



HR0134

LRB102 17169 ECR 22614 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The 1908 Springfield Race Riot (the Riot) started on August 14 when a white mob attempted to lynch two Black inmates in the Sangamon County Jail; the mob discovered the two inmates had been transferred out of Springfield and went on a rampage that ended in the death of at least sixteen people and the destruction of many Black homes and businesses; the riots ended after two days when the state militia quelled the violence; and

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WHEREAS, Black residents, who fought in self-defense to protect their property and themselves, were brutally attacked; during and immediately following the Riot, nearly 2,000 Black residents fled the City, and most did not return; and

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WHEREAS, Personal and property damages from the riots, suffered overwhelmingly by Black citizens, amounted to more than \$4 million in a current valuation; and

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WHEREAS, In February of 1909, civil rights leaders formed the National Negro Committee in New York City, New York in response to the Riot; this Committee would later become the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and

1           WHEREAS, In 2008, the City of Springfield erected  
2 historical markers across the City and a memorial statue to  
3 commemorate the 100th year anniversary of the Riot; and

4           WHEREAS, During an excavation as part of the Springfield  
5 High-Speed Rail project, foundations and artifacts from homes  
6 destroyed during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot were  
7 uncovered; in 2018, an agreement with community members was  
8 reached to excavate the remains and designate the uncovered  
9 site a memorial; and

10           WHEREAS, In 2019, the National Park Service conducted a  
11 reconnaissance survey that concluded that the archeological  
12 site in Springfield, Illinois associated with the 1908 Race  
13 Riot likely meets the criteria established by Congress for  
14 inclusion in the National Parks System; and

15           WHEREAS, In 2019, Illinois Senators Tammy Duckworth and  
16 Dick Durbin introduced the Springfield Race Riot Monument Act  
17 to establish the Springfield Race Riot National Historic  
18 Monument and to help increase the number of National Parks  
19 devoted to recognizing the histories of diverse peoples and  
20 cultures; and

21           WHEREAS, In August of 2020, The U.S. Department of the  
22 Interior recognized the national and historic significance of

1 the Riot when it designated the 1908 Springfield Race Riot  
2 Site as the 30th addition to the African American Civil Rights  
3 Network; and

4 WHEREAS, The NAACP was instrumental in pushing our Nation  
5 forward by helping establish justice and working to secure  
6 liberty for Black Americans; it is time for the United States  
7 Government to formally honor and commemorate the NAACP's  
8 founding and national legacy of service; and

9 WHEREAS, Establishing the 1908 Springfield Race Riot  
10 National Monument would represent long overdue progress in  
11 making sure the National Parks System properly memorializes  
12 the historic events of the African-American civil rights  
13 movement; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we urge President Joe Biden and other federal leaders to  
17 designate the 1908 Race Riot Sites in Springfield, Illinois as  
18 a national monument to be managed by the National Park  
19 Service; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 presented to President Joe Biden and the entire Illinois  
22 Congressional Delegation.