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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate the City of Chicago on the occasion of the 185th anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, Chicago, with a population hovering at approximately three million, is the State's largest and the country's third most populous city; and

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WHEREAS, A drive across Chicago's lively immigrant neighborhoods is a trip around the world; the cultures of virtually every country can be found in food stores, restaurants, shops, places of worship, and street-corner conversations; and

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WHEREAS, Chicago's first permanent non-indigenous resident was a trader named Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, a free black man from Haiti whose father was a French sailor and whose mother was an African slave; he came to Chicago in the 1770s via the Mississippi River from New Orleans with his Native American wife, and their home stood at the mouth of the Chicago River; and

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WHEREAS, Incorporated as a city in 1837, Chicago was ideally situated to take advantage of the trading

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1 possibilities created by the nation's westward expansion; the
2 completion of the Illinois & Michigan Canal in 1848 created a
3 water link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River;
4 today, 50 percent of U.S. rail freight passes through Chicago,
5 even as the city has become the nation's busiest aviation
6 center, thanks to O'Hare and Midway international airports;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The buildings, streets, and sidewalks of Chicago
9 in its early days were made of wood, and most of them burned to
10 the ground in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871; the Chicago Fire
11 Department training academy is on the site of the O'Leary
12 property where the fire began; the Chicago Water Tower and
13 Pumping Station at Michigan and Chicago avenues are among the
14 few buildings to have survived the fire; and

15 WHEREAS, Chicago rebuilt quickly; much of the debris was
16 dumped into Lake Michigan as landfill, forming the
17 underpinnings for what is now Grant Park, Millennium Park, and
18 the Art Institute of Chicago; only 22 years later, Chicago
19 celebrated its comeback by holding the World's Columbian
20 Exposition of 1893, with its memorable White City; one of the
21 Exposition buildings was rebuilt to become the Museum of
22 Science and Industry; and

23 WHEREAS, Chicagoans have demonstrated their ingenuity in

1 matters large and small; the nation's first skyscraper, the
2 10-story, steel-framed Home Insurance Building, was built in
3 1884 at LaSalle and Adams streets and demolished in 1931; when
4 residents were threatened by waterborne illnesses from sewage
5 flowing into Lake Michigan, they reversed the Chicago River in
6 1900 to make it flow toward the Mississippi; the start of the
7 Historic Route 66 begins at Grant Park on Adams Street in the
8 front of the Art Institute of Chicago; and

9 WHEREAS, Chicago was the birthplace of the refrigerated
10 rail car (Swift), mail-order retailing (Sears and Montgomery
11 Ward), the car radio (Motorola), and the TV remote control
12 (Zenith); the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction,
13 ushering in the Atomic Age, took place at the University of
14 Chicago in 1942; the 1,451-foot Willis Tower, formerly known
15 as the Sears Tower, completed in 1974, was the tallest
16 building in the world from 1974 to 1998; and

17 WHEREAS, Chicago has become a global city, a thriving
18 center of international trade and commerce, and a place where
19 people of every nationality and background come to pursue the
20 American dream; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
23 we congratulate the City of Chicago on the 185th anniversary

1 of its founding and wish the city many more wonderful years;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the Mayor of Chicago as symbol of our respect and
5 esteem.