



HR0899

LRB102 28342 LAW 40213 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Soul Children of  
4 Chicago (SCC) on the occasion of its 40th anniversary; and

5           WHEREAS, The SCC is the nation's oldest internationally  
6 acclaimed, Grammy award-winning, youth gospel choir; the  
7 501(c)(3) professional youth organization was founded by Walt  
8 W. Whitman Jr. in 1981, starting with a group of 22 children;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, The SCC strives to provide an incentive for inner  
11 city youth to remain free of gangs, drugs, and teen  
12 pregnancies through the use of the creative arts while  
13 maintaining academic excellence; its mission is to education  
14 the minds, elevate the spirits, and illuminate the souls of  
15 youths aged seven through 17 from the Chicago area and  
16 suburban Cook County; and

17           WHEREAS, The SCC prides itself in its outreach efforts by  
18 giving back to the community; since its creation, the  
19 organization's youth members have contributed more than 16  
20 billion volunteer hours; additionally, the organization has  
21 further helped communities through partnering with a number of  
22 businesses and groups over the years, including The Olive

1 Branch, the Bright Star Community Development, Father Michael  
2 Pfleger and Saint Sabina's War on Gang Violence, and the  
3 Truth, Hope & Justice Initiative; and

4 WHEREAS, The SCC has extended its outreach efforts abroad,  
5 from building wells in Monrovia, Liberia to establishing  
6 global networks through the creation of more than 100 Soul  
7 Children choirs in multiple countries, including Norway,  
8 Sweden, Indonesia, Germany, and England and very soon in South  
9 Africa; and

10 WHEREAS, The SCC has touched the lives of thousands of  
11 Chicago youths who have performed and traveled with the group;  
12 the organization has played an important role in serving  
13 Chicago youth from some of the toughest areas in the city,  
14 helping them develop into successful men and women; the choir  
15 counts graduates, artists, pastors, community leaders,  
16 doctors, lawyers, entrepreneurs, and other working  
17 professionals among its alumni; and

18 WHEREAS, The SCC continues to serve the community as a  
19 non-denominational, non-profit, educational organization  
20 dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth; the organization  
21 remains passionate and committed to being the change its  
22 members desire to create through leading with integrity and  
23 authenticity, consistently embracing new challenges, promoting

1 peace and happiness, and inspiring people all over the world;  
2 therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we congratulate the Soul Children of Chicago on its 40th  
6 anniversary, and we wish Walt W. Whitman Jr. and his  
7 organization continued success in the years to come; and be it  
8 further

9       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the SCC as an expression of our esteem and  
11 respect.