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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to commemorate the 100th birthday of His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader and Guru of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), a worldwide Hindu organization dedicated to promoting harmony between individuals, within families, and among diverse communities; and

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WHEREAS, Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a simple, humble, and spiritual personality; the great Guru was the fifth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan; he was in constant communion with Bhagwan Swaminarayan and, ontologically, was the manifestation of Akshar, the eternal abode of Swaminarayan; and

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WHEREAS, Pramukh Swami Maharaj was born on December 7, 1921 in the village of Chansad, Gujarat, India; he followed a spiritual path from an early age, seeking purity, renouncing material possessions, and possessing a striking humility, saintliness, and selfless desire to help all; and

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WHEREAS, Pramukh Swami Maharaj's unique combination of spirituality and leadership resulted in the growth of BAPS globally, encompassing more than 1,100 Mandirs worldwide and

1 150 centers in North America, and created grand stone mandirs  
2 in Houston, Chicago, Toronto, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and  
3 Robbinsville; these mandirs offer a welcoming and spiritual  
4 space for thousands of families, as well as worship,  
5 fellowship, communal meals, education, and activities for  
6 young and old, creating a true home for the faithful; and

7 WHEREAS, Pramukh Swami Maharaj's thoughtful and meaningful  
8 words were a distillation of his profound experience, bringing  
9 peace to even the most disturbed; his words removed  
10 impurities, brought joy, inspired greatness, lifted the gloom,  
11 gave direction, removed ego, and imbued people with bliss; his  
12 experienced words of wisdom provided inspirational guidance on  
13 religion, detachment from material things, devotion to faith,  
14 family values, nurturing children, the duties of citizens, and  
15 many other essential aspects of daily life; and

16 WHEREAS, Pramukh Swami Maharaj was a rare soul and always  
17 lived for others and, at the same time, remained completely  
18 absorbed in his faith; his unique message to the world is "In  
19 the joy of others, lies our own"; his words were thoughtful,  
20 meaningful, and consoling, coming from the depth of profound  
21 experience and deep compassion; and

22 WHEREAS, Pramukh Swami Maharaj always gave enlightenment,  
23 guidance, and wisdom to the many entrusted to his care and

1 administered abundantly and unstintingly to the spiritual and  
2 corporal needs of all; and

3 WHEREAS, It is the custom of the House of Representatives  
4 to recognize the men and women who accept the responsibility  
5 of moral leadership and render the wisdom of human  
6 understanding; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we commemorate the 100th birthday of His Holiness Pramukh  
10 Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader and Guru of the BAPS  
11 Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS), a worldwide Hindu organization  
12 dedicated to promoting harmony between individuals, within  
13 families and among diverse communities.