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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The first Parliament of the World's Religions was  
3 held in Chicago in 1893, marking the first formal gathering of  
4 representatives from various religious traditions from around  
5 the world; it returned to Chicago in 1993 to celebrate its  
6 100th year anniversary; and

7           WHEREAS, The Parliament of the World's Religions  
8 represented a historic moment of interfaith dialogue,  
9 understanding, and cooperation and paved the way for greater  
10 religious harmony and pluralism in the United States and  
11 beyond; and

12           WHEREAS, The Parliament of the World's Religions, which is  
13 celebrating 130 years, has continued to convene in cities  
14 around the world and will be returning to Chicago in August of  
15 2023, promoting interfaith understanding and cooperation and  
16 advancing the cause of peace, justice, and sustainability  
17 across the globe; and

18           WHEREAS, Many distinguished leaders have spoken at the  
19 Parliament of World's Religions, including Nelson Mandela,  
20 Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Jane Goodall, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and  
21 President Jimmy Carter; and

1           WHEREAS, During the month of August in 2023, the  
2 Parliament of the World's Religions will generate over \$10  
3 million in tourist and participant-related revenues for the  
4 local economy and provide over 4,000 hours of volunteer  
5 service benefiting local charitable initiatives; and

6           WHEREAS, Interfaith dialogue and cooperation is important  
7 and can promote a greater understanding and appreciation among  
8 people of different religious traditions; and

9           WHEREAS, August 2023 marks the return of the Parliament of  
10 the World's Religions to Illinois and provides an opportunity  
11 to celebrate the rich diversity of religious traditions and to  
12 reaffirm a commitment to promoting interfaith understanding  
13 and cooperation, defending freedom, and human rights;  
14 therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
16 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we declare the month of August 2023 as "Parliament of the  
18 World"s Religions Month" in the State of Illinois and  
19 encourage all Illinois residents to recognize the significance  
20 of the Parliament of the World's Religions and to participate  
21 in activities and events that promote interfaith dialogue and  
22 understanding; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we recognize the Parliament of the World's  
2 Religions' focus on defending freedom and human rights, the  
3 power of diversity, addressing wealth disparities, caring for  
4 the Earth, and encouraging sustainable living; and be it  
5 further

6           RESOLVED, That we recognize the importance of a strong  
7 interfaith movement; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That a suitable of this resolution be presented  
9 to the organizers of the Parliament of the World's Religions.