



HR0617

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the life and legacy of Annie
4 Minerva Turnbo Malone, an African American entrepreneur and
5 philanthropist during the early 20th century; and

6 WHEREAS, Annie Malone was born in Metropolis on August 9,
7 1869, the tenth of 11 children of Robert and Isabella Cook
8 Turnbo; she attended school in Illinois but especially enjoyed
9 fashioning her own and her sister's hair, becoming aware of
10 differences in hair texture; by 1889, she had developed her
11 own scalp and hair products that she demonstrated and sold
12 from a buggy throughout Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Annie Malone's business growth led her to St.
14 Louis, Missouri in 1902, which at the time held the
15 fourth-largest population of African Americans; she
16 copyrighted her Poro brand beauty products, and through her
17 business model that used local sales agents, she offered
18 career opportunities and economic independence to African
19 American women at a time when little was available; and

20 WHEREAS, Committed to community building and social
21 welfare, Annie Malone founded Poro College in 1917, a complex
22 that included her business offices, manufacturing operation,

1 and training center, as well as facilities for civic,
2 religious, and social functions; many local and national
3 organizations, including the National Negro Business League,
4 were housed in the facility or used it for business functions;
5 by 1926, the college employed 175 people and had franchised
6 outlets in North and South America, Africa and the
7 Philippines; by 1930, she had moved from Missouri and settled
8 on Chicago's South Side; and

9 WHEREAS, Annie Malone is recorded as the first Black woman
10 millionaire in the U. S. based on reports of \$14 million in
11 assets held in 1920 from her beauty and cosmetic enterprises;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Annie Malone served as board president of the St.
14 Louis Colored Orphan's Home from 1919 to 1943; she donated the
15 first \$10,000 to build the orphanage's new building in 1919;
16 during the 1920s, her philanthropy included financing the
17 education of two full-time students in every historically
18 black college and university; her \$25,000 donation to Howard
19 University was among the largest gifts the university had
20 received by a private donor of African descent; and

21 WHEREAS, Annie Malone was treated for a stroke at
22 Provident Hospital in Chicago on May 10, 1957, where she died;
23 at the time of her death, Poro beauty colleges were in

1 operation in more than 30 U.S. cities; and

2 WHEREAS, Annie Malone's memory is honored in St. Louis
3 with the Annie Malone Children and Family Service Center whose
4 mission is to improve the quality of life for children,
5 families, elderly, and the community by providing social
6 services, educational programs, advocacy, and
7 entrepreneurship; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we recognize the life and legacy of Annie Minerva Turnbo
11 Malone, an African American entrepreneur and philanthropist
12 during the early 20th century; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Annie Malone as a symbol of our
15 respect and esteem.