

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Noah Parden was born into conditions not  
3 uncommon for African Americans in America's 19th century  
4 South; he was born at Rome, Georgia on July 18, 1857, just  
5 four years prior to the outbreak of the civil war; he picked  
6 cotton on a Georgia plantation and was forbidden to pass  
7 along his rare ability to read to other African Americans;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, He moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee at age 15,  
10 where he attended high school; he studied for five years at  
11 Central Tennessee College, supporting himself by working as a  
12 waiter, shoeshiner, and as a barber; he became a lawyer in  
13 1891; and

14 WHEREAS, Noah Parden overcame the incredible obstacles  
15 confronting an African-American person at that time and  
16 emerged as the first African-American attorney in St. Clair  
17 County, the first African-American person to become an  
18 assistant county prosecutor and assistant city prosecutor in  
19 St. Clair County and East St. Louis, and the first  
20 African-American to argue successfully before the U.S.  
21 Supreme Court; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1906, Noah Parden argued successfully before  
23 the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Ed Johnson, an  
24 African-American man wrongly convicted of raping a white  
25 woman; because of his efforts for Mr. Johnson, Mr. Parden's  
26 life was threatened several times; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Parden won two hundred cases; he had often  
28 been compared to Clarence Darrow, the famous criminal lawyer;  
29 during his career, he was one of the best known  
30 African-American lawyers in the country; he was frequently  
31 called from his East St. Louis home to defend those accused  
32 in criminal cases; and

1           WHEREAS, Noah Parden was a family man with varied skills  
2 and interests; he and his wife were the parents of two  
3 children, Frank and Lillian; he could sew, knit, and could  
4 make his own clothes; he could speak several languages and  
5 could converse freely on literature and art; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we honor Attorney Noah Parden for his dedication and  
9 commitment to the causes of justice and equality, and we  
10 recognize his contributions to the citizens of Illinois and  
11 the country; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of Noah Parden with our respect and  
14 esteem for his accomplishments.