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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The institution of slavery was terminated in a complex series of events occurring during and immediately after the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, On June 19th, 1865, the last of the slaves held in bondage in the United States were set free; and

WHEREAS, All Americans benefit from and all Americans should remember and celebrate the ending of slavery and the joining together of all of our people in freedom; and

WHEREAS, Our free enterprise system is fundamentally at odds with slavery and has been strengthened by its elimination; and

WHEREAS, The African-American Cultural and Genealogical Society of Illinois began in 1993 with 25 charter members; membership has grown to over 150 and the organization is the only one of its kind in downstate Illinois and is a non-profit organization; and

WHEREAS, Because it is essential that all citizens learn about African-American history, a splendid and glorious story often not taught in our public and private schools, the Society helps to stimulate interest in African history in general, which pre-dates 5000 B.C., and comprises the early history of all mankind; thus, the Society serves the entire community; and

WHEREAS, No single Day of Remembrance is currently established for the celebration of slavery's end; and

WHEREAS, The United States currently celebrates two national Days of Remembrance, "Flag Day" and "Pearl Harbor Day"; and

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas and six other states currently
2 celebrate "Juneteenth" on June 19th of each year to recall the
3 end of slavery; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year, the African-American Cultural and
5 Genealogical Society of Illinois presents its Juneteenth
6 Celebration National Freedom Day Family Festival in memory of
7 founding board member Judith Bond; this year, the organization
8 will present its 11th Annual Juneteenth Family Festival
9 Celebration in Decatur on June 18 and June 19, 2004; therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
13 recognize the African-American Cultural and Genealogical
14 Society of Illinois, and we commend the group for its work in
15 the education of the citizens of Illinois regarding the rich
16 cultural heritage of African Americans; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the African-American Cultural and Genealogical
19 Society of Illinois and its Director, Evelyn Hood, as an
20 expression of our respect and esteem and with best wishes for
21 the success of the Juneteenth Celebration.