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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Musical performances and folk dance presentations were a part of the festivities as the students celebrated the Latvian School of Chicago's 55th anniversary on January 22, 2005 at the Chicago Latvian Zion Lutheran Church; and

WHEREAS, Currently, 82 children from pre-school to high school attend the school's five 50-minute sessions each Saturday, learning academic subjects such as Latvian grammar, literature, and history; they also receive cultural instruction in folk music, traditional cooking, and jewelry making and learn about Latvian current events and ancient traditions; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of first-generation Latvian-American children attended the school in its first decades; today, many of these former students take their own children to the school each Saturday as Latvian customs and traditions are passed on to another generation; school officials are also reaching out to recent Latvian immigrants and inviting them to participate in the school as students, teachers, and active parents; and

WHEREAS, The school has been at its present location in the Chicago Latvian Zion Lutheran Church since 1976; its facilities include 10 classrooms, music and jewelry-making rooms, and an 8,000-book library; in 1950, classes were first held in private homes; starting in 1951, a series of rented spaces were used, including the Olivet Institute, Association House of Chicago, Lutheran Memorial Church, and the Oak Park Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its history, the school has had nine librarians, 12 principals, and more than 200 teachers, 49 of whom taught for 10 or more years; along with an active parent council, they have helped preserve old customs while creating 55 years of new memories; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3           we congratulate the Latvian School of Chicago on the occasion  
4           of the celebration of its 55th anniversary and we wish the  
5           school many more rewarding years of teaching Latvian customs  
6           and traditions; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8           presented to the Latvian School of Chicago as an expression of  
9           our admiration and esteem.