



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois learned with great sadness of the death of  
4 John H. Johnson, founder, publisher, and chairman of Johnson  
5 Publishing Company, Inc., on August 8, 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was the founder of a major  
7 international media and cosmetics empire that includes EBONY  
8 and JET magazines, Fashion Fair Cosmetics, and EBONY Fashion  
9 Fair; Johnson Publishing is the number one African-American  
10 publishing company in the world and was founded in 1942; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson, who borrowed \$500 to begin his  
12 publishing endeavors, is credited as one of the major  
13 trailblazers, and he is recognized as the founder of the  
14 African-American consumer market; under his leadership, EBONY  
15 magazine has been the biggest Black-owned magazine in the world  
16 for 60 straight years; in 2002, he named his daughter, Linda  
17 Johnson Rice, the chief operating officer, CEO of the company,  
18 but he retained the title of chairman and publisher until his  
19 death; and

20 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Johnson received  
21 several awards, including the highest civilian honor, The  
22 Presidential Medal of Freedom, as well as the Magazine  
23 Publisher's Association Publisher of the Year Award, the  
24 Advertising Hall of Fame Award, the Arkansas Business Hall of  
25 Fame Award, the National Business Hall of Fame Award, the  
26 Greatest Minority Entrepreneur Award, the Horatio Alger Award,  
27 and the NAACP Spingarn Award; in 2003, Howard University in  
28 Washington, D.C., established the John H. Johnson School of  
29 Communications in his honor; in 2005, the John H. Johnson Delta  
30 Cultural and Entrepreneurial Learning Center in Arkansas City,  
31 Arkansas, was dedicated; and

1           WHEREAS, He received several honorary doctoral degrees  
2           from universities including Harvard University, the University  
3           of Southern California, Northwestern University, Howard  
4           University, and Morehouse College; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was born in poverty in Arkansas City,  
6           Arkansas, in 1918; he credited the love and determination of  
7           his mother, the late Gertrude Johnson Williams, for starting  
8           him on the road to success; throughout his career he was  
9           supported by his wife, Eunice W. Johnson, secretary-treasurer  
10          of the company; and his daughter, President & CEO Linda Johnson  
11          Rice; he is also survived by his granddaughter, Alexa;  
12          therefore, be it

13          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14          NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15          we mourn the passing of John H. Johnson, and we extend our  
16          deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who knew and  
17          loved him; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19          presented to his family as an expression of our sincerest  
20          condolences for the loss of a great man.