



HR1094

LRB095 20475 KXB 48318 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

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

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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

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

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WHEREAS, The African-American Cultural and Genealogical Society of Illinois, located in Decatur, 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

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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

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1 helps to stimulate interest in African history in general,  
2 which pre-dates 5000 B.C., and comprises the early history of  
3 all mankind; thus, the Society serves the entire community; and

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, Each year, the African-American Cultural and  
13 Genealogical Society of Illinois presents its Juneteenth  
14 Celebration National Freedom Day Family Festival in memory of  
15 founding board member Judith Bond; this year, the organization  
16 will present its 15th Annual Juneteenth Family Festival  
17 Celebration in Decatur on June 21, 2008; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
20 recognize the African-American Cultural and Genealogical  
21 Society of Illinois, and we commend the group for its work in

1 the education of the citizens of Illinois regarding the rich  
2 cultural heritage of African Americans; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the African-American Cultural and Genealogical  
5 Society of Illinois and its Director, Evelyn Hood of Decatur,  
6 as an expression of our respect and esteem and with best wishes  
7 for the success of the Juneteenth Celebration.