



HR1631

LRB095 23097 GRL 53710 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, State Representative Monique D. Davis and the  
3 Illinois House of Representatives resolve to congratulate  
4 Barack Obama for his ascendency to the office of United States  
5 President; and

6           WHEREAS, Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in  
7 Honolulu, Hawaii; his father, Barack Obama, Sr., was born of  
8 Luo ethnicity in Nyanza Province, Kenya; his mother, Ann  
9 Dunham, grew up in Wichita, Kansas; and

10           WHEREAS, In 1967, Barack Obama and his family moved to  
11 Jakarta, Indonesia; after four years of attending school in  
12 Jakarta, he returned to Hawaii to live with his maternal  
13 grandparents, Madelyn and Stanley Dunham, and later his mother;  
14 when he was in the fifth grade, he enrolled at the esteemed  
15 Punahou Academy, graduating with honors in 1979; and

16           WHEREAS, After high school, Barack Obama studied at the  
17 Occidental College in Los Angeles, California for two years; he  
18 then transferred to Columbia University in New York, graduating  
19 in 1983 with a degree in political science; and

20           WHEREAS, After working at Business International  
21 Corporation, a company that provided international business

1 information to corporate clients, and NYPIRG, Barack Obama  
2 moved to Chicago in 1985; in Chicago, he worked as a community  
3 organizer with low-income residents in Chicago's Roseland  
4 community and the Altgeld Gardens public housing development on  
5 the South Side; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1988, Barack Obama entered Harvard Law School;  
7 in February of 1990, he was elected the first African-American  
8 editor of the Harvard Law Review; in 1991, he graduated from  
9 Harvard magna cum laude; after law school, he returned to  
10 Chicago to practice as a civil rights lawyer, joining the firm  
11 of Miner, Barnhill & Galland; he also taught at the University  
12 of Chicago Law School and he helped organize voter registration  
13 drives during Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign; and

14 WHEREAS, Barack Obama's advocacy work for the less  
15 fortunate led him to run for the Illinois State Senate; he was  
16 elected in 1996 from the south side neighborhood of Hyde Park;  
17 as a State Senator, he worked with both Democrats and  
18 Republicans in drafting legislation on ethics, expanding  
19 health care services, and the creation of early childhood  
20 education programs for the poor; he also created a state  
21 earned-income tax credit for the working poor and worked with  
22 law enforcement officials to require the videotaping of  
23 interrogations and confessions in all capital cases; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2000, Barack Obama made an unsuccessful  
2 Democratic primary run for the U.S. House of Representatives  
3 seat held by four-term incumbent candidate Bobby Rush; not one  
4 to rest on his laurels, he decided to run for the U.S. Senate  
5 open seat vacated by Republican Peter Fitzgerald in 2004;  
6 receiving 70 percent of the vote, he once again achieved  
7 victory with the largest electoral victory in Illinois history;  
8 upon winning the election, he became only the third African  
9 American elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction; and

10           WHEREAS, Immediately going into action after he was sworn  
11 into office on January 4, 2005, Barack Obama partnered with  
12 Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana on a bill that  
13 expanded efforts to destroy weapons of mass destruction in  
14 Eastern Europe and Russia and with Republican Sen. Tom Corburn  
15 of Oklahoma to create a website that tracks all federal  
16 spending; he was also the first to raise the threat of avian  
17 flu on the Senate floor, spoke out for victims of Hurricane  
18 Katrina, pushed for alternative energy development, and  
19 championed improved veterans' benefits; he also worked with  
20 Democrat Russ Feingold of Wisconsin to eliminate gifts of  
21 travel on corporate jets by lobbyists to members of Congress;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, In February of 2007, Barack Obama made headlines  
24 and history when he announced his candidacy for the 2008

1 Democratic presidential nomination; after a successful primary  
2 bid, he went on to achieve victory against opponent John  
3 McCain, once again making history as the first African-American  
4 President in history; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1988, Barack Obama met his wife, Michelle, when  
6 he was a summer associate at the Chicago law firm of Sidley &  
7 Austin; they were married in October of 1992; together, they  
8 have two daughters, Malia and Sasha; and

9 WHEREAS, Barack Obama's incredible success in government  
10 makes him a shining beacon of Illinois' Lincoln legacy and a  
11 role model for the people of this State, the nation, and the  
12 world; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
15 congratulate Barack Obama for his ascendancy to the office of  
16 United States President and give him our best wishes for his  
17 bright future; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we recognize both the momentous occasion of  
19 his election and recognize the significant barriers of progress  
20 that have been breached by this paradigm shift in politics; and  
21 be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Barack Obama as a symbol of our esteem and  
3 respect.