



HR0086

LRB096 11093 AJO 21429 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The contributions of many African-Americans have  
3 been left out of numerous history books; and

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WHEREAS, More than 12 million slaves were shipped to the  
5 Americas and of those, 645,000 were brought to the United  
6 States; by the 1860 census, the slave population in the United  
7 States had grown to approximately 4 million persons; and

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WHEREAS, Enslaved labor was necessary for colonial empires  
9 to survive in America and without the contributions of slaves  
10 performing the jobs necessary to the building of the United  
11 States, our country would not have developed into the strong  
12 nation that it is today; and

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WHEREAS, In the maritime industry, slave labor was needed  
14 to load, unload, and transport goods around the United States  
15 and abroad; in the South, slave labor was necessary to clear  
16 the fields, plant, tend, and harvest the crops, especially the  
17 crops of tobacco, cotton, and sugar cane, as well as to  
18 transport the crops to market; the enslaved performed all kinds  
19 of jobs within the United States; and

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WHEREAS, Not only did African-Americans contribute to the  
21 development of this country, they fought for its freedom as

1 well; African-Americans have fought in all wars, from the  
2 American Revolution to our present wars; and

3 WHEREAS, It would be fitting to honor the contributions of  
4 African-American slaves in the United States by a declaration  
5 of the United States Congress that commemorates those efforts  
6 and sacrifices; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 the Illinois State House of Representatives urges the Congress  
10 to honor the contributions of African-American slaves in the  
11 United States by declaring that every February 28th shall be  
12 designated as Honor the Contributions of African-American  
13 Slaves in the United States Day; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
15 delivered to the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the  
16 United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the  
17 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
18 the Illinois congressional delegation.