



HR0483

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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 16th Annual Juneteenth National Freedom Day
17 Family Festival and Bicentennial Celebration in Decatur on June
18 19 and 20, 2009; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 recognize the African-American Cultural and Genealogical

1 Society of Illinois, and we commend the group for its work in
2 the education of the citizens of Illinois regarding the rich
3 cultural heritage of African Americans; and be it further

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