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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Twenty million Americans are victims of crime each
3 year and each crime affects many more, including families,
4 friends, and communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Crime exacts an emotional, physical,
6 psychological, and financial toll on victims as they have lost
7 loved ones, life savings, physical and mental health, and often
8 their sense of security and has the potential to irrevocably
9 change the course of their lives forever; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 30 years of progress for crime victims
11 stands on the shoulders of dedicated advocates and brave
12 victims who overcame shame, isolation, and indifference to gain
13 a voice, rights, and respect; and

14 WHEREAS, We applaud the progress that our nation has made
15 in recognizing crime's impact on victims and celebrate
16 advocates and survivors who through their determination have
17 brought rights and resources for victims and have changed the
18 course of history; and

19 WHEREAS, Victim assistance programs across the country are
20 reaching more victims and criminal justice officials are
21 honoring victims' rights more consistently, public

1 understanding of victims' rights remains minimal, and our
2 nation's victim services system remains fragmented,
3 underfunded, and uncoordinated; and

4 WHEREAS, More work remains to be done to address the mental
5 health impact of crime, and to meet the needs of victims of
6 non-violent crime, victims of terrorism, and other underserved
7 victims; and

8 WHEREAS, History teaches us that, by working together, we
9 can help victims of crime reshape their destinies and ensure
10 that they receive the support they need, the respect they
11 deserve, and the rights they have earned; and

12 WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16,
13 2011, provides an opportunity to reshape the future for victims
14 by honoring the past and reflecting on hard-won victories, and
15 to recommit to working together to insist on better treatment
16 for victims to help them overcome the harm caused by crime; and

17 WHEREAS, The Springfield FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni
18 Association, in partnership with Southwind Park and the
19 Springfield Park District, are joining forces with victim
20 service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned
21 citizens throughout the State of Illinois and America to raise
22 awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime

1 Victims' Rights Week; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we proclaim the week of April 10-16, 2011, as National Crime
5 Victims' Rights Week And reaffirm the commitment to respect and
6 enforce victims' rights and address their needs during National
7 Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation for those
10 victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy
11 into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of
12 crime and build a more just community.