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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Our commemoration of Illinois history and the War
3 of 1812 should be guided by a universal belief that all persons
4 have inherent worth and dignity; human relations should be
5 based on justice, equity, and compassion; this world should be
6 a community of peace, liberty, and justice for all; and our
7 communities should seek to live in peace with our fellow human
8 beings, both as individuals and as peoples; and

9 WHEREAS, The Doctrine of Discovery was a principle of law
10 developed in a series of 15th century papal bulls and royal
11 charters by European monarchs by which the Americas were first
12 explored, and was the legal authority used by those who
13 colonized the Americas, appropriated lands and resources, and
14 dealt with the tribes and nations of Native Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, After the United States Revolutionary War, the
16 tenets of the Doctrine of Discovery were continued by the new
17 states and courts, controlling all purchase of lands and any
18 foreign, personal, or commercial interactions with tribes of
19 Native Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, Prior to and during the War of 1812, the
21 principles of the Doctrine of Discovery were practiced by both
22 the British and the United States in relations and transactions

1 with the Native American tribes; and

2 WHEREAS, The Illinois Territory was on the border of this
3 conflict between Great Britain and the United States and used
4 by the British to conduct raids on American settlements during
5 the War of 1812; and

6 WHEREAS, Following the War of 1812, Native American peoples
7 who had supported either the United States or Great Britain
8 during the war continued to be subjected to the policies of the
9 Doctrine of Discovery resulting in their displacement as tribal
10 units from within the State of Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, As Illinois moves forward in the 21st century,
12 many citizens of Native American ancestry have found a place
13 within Illinois to live their lives, celebrate their unique
14 identity, and lead all Americans in our enjoyment of our common
15 heritage; and

16 WHEREAS, From April 26-28, 2012, the 2012 Illinois History
17 Symposium's "Contested Lands: 1763-1840" will discuss the
18 enduring impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on the land and
19 culture of Illinois; and

20 WHEREAS, The Symposium will convene in East Peoria, thereby
21 paying homage to one of the most contested sites of the

1 Illinois theatre of the War of 1812 and joining in the
2 observance of the bicentennial of the outbreak of the war;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we welcome the 2012 Illinois History Symposium and its
7 commemoration of our State in the War of 1812; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we assert that all Native American peoples
10 whose ancestors once lived on, temporarily resided in, or
11 traveled through the great State of Illinois, shall henceforth
12 be fully recognized for their rich cultural contributions to
13 Illinois and the United States; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the Illinois State Historical Society, the
16 American Indian Center in Chicago, the American Indian Museum
17 at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and the D'Arcy McNickel
18 Center for the History of the American Indian, Newberry
19 Library, in Chicago.