



HR1048

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Since 1654, when Jewish immigrants first settled
3 in North America, the Jewish-American people have contributed
4 immeasurably to every aspect of our society, including
5 government, sports, education, business, science, and the
6 arts, and have enriched our culture and helped to shape our
7 national identity; and

8 WHEREAS, Since the time of the American Revolution, when
9 the colonies' small population of 3,000 Jewish settlers played
10 an outsized role in the battle for our nation's independence,
11 with an estimated 160 Jewish-Americans fighting in George
12 Washington's Continental Army, the commitment of the
13 Jewish-American people to the defense and freedom of the United
14 States has been witnessed again and again from the time of the
15 Civil War, to the first World War, to World War II - where half
16 a million Jewish-Americans joined in a worldwide effort to halt
17 the march of fascism and prevent the eradication of the Jewish
18 culture - to the present theaters of American military
19 involvement, where Jewish-Americans continue to defend our
20 freedom; and

21 WHEREAS, Jewish-Americans have worked alongside their
22 fellow Americans of all races, religions, and heritages to
23 create the advances that continue to make our nation a center

1 of business and technological innovation and creativity and
2 enhance the vitality of our communities nationwide; and

3 WHEREAS, Albert Einstein, Robert Oppenheimer, Jonas Salk,
4 and Carl Sagan are among the many Jewish-Americans whose
5 dedication to the advancement of scientific understanding has
6 helped cure diseases, prevent war, explore space, and grace us
7 with a fuller appreciation of our world; and

8 WHEREAS, Jewish-American athletes have made important
9 contributions to our national pastimes, including former
10 Chicago Bears great Sid Luckman, pitching legend Sandy Koufax,
11 Major League Baseball's reigning National League Most Valuable
12 Player Ryan Braun, new Chicago Cubs president Theo Epstein,
13 Olympic gold medal figure-skater Sarah Hughes, and Abe
14 Saperstein, whose role in founding the Harlem Globetrotters
15 earned him induction in basketball's hall of fame; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite oftentimes facing discrimination and
17 persecution themselves, Jewish-Americans worked actively in
18 the civil rights movement and the women's equality movement;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Jewish-American community groups, such as B'nai
21 B'rith, Hatzalah, Hadassah, Hillel, the many synagogue men's
22 clubs and sisterhoods, and several Jewish fraternities and

1 sororities in America, such as Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Epsilon
2 Phi, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Delta Tau, Tau Epsilon Phi, and Zeta
3 Beta Tau, have worked locally and internationally to serve our
4 communities, our country, and our world; and

5 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is home to one of the 10
6 largest Jewish populations in the world; and

7 WHEREAS, Many notable Jewish-Americans have called
8 Illinois home, including Governor Henry Horner, one of the
9 first Jewish governors in the United States,
10 internationally-renowned pianist Fannie Bloomfield Ziesler,
11 beloved children's writer and poet Shel Silverstein, Sears
12 president and philanthropist Max Adler, and former
13 Congressman, White House Chief of Staff, and current Mayor of
14 Chicago, Rahm Emanuel; and

15 WHEREAS, Since 2006, the month of May has been designated
16 as Jewish-American Heritage Month; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we set aside the month of May as an opportunity to reflect on
20 the contributions that Jewish-Americans have made to our
21 communities, our State, and our country.