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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Native American Peoples have been disassociated
3 from their traditional homelands contrary to a universal belief
4 that all persons have inherent worth and dignity; human
5 relations should be based on justice, equity, and compassion;
6 this world should be a community of peace, liberty, and justice
7 for all; and our communities should seek to live in peace with
8 our fellow human beings, both as individuals and as peoples;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The Doctrine of Discovery was a principle of law
11 developed in a series of 15th century papal bulls and royal
12 charters by European monarchs by which the Americas were first
13 explored, and was the legal authority used by those who
14 colonized the Americas, appropriated lands and resources, and
15 attempted to dominate Native American Nations and undermine
16 inherent Native American sovereignty; and

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

21 WHEREAS, Prior to and during the War of 1812, the
22 principles of the Doctrine of Discovery were practiced by both

1 the British and the United States in relations and transactions
2 with the Native American tribes; and

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

7 WHEREAS, Following the War of 1812, Native American peoples
8 who had supported either the United States or Great Britain
9 during the war continued to be subjected to the policies of the
10 Doctrine of Discovery resulting in the appropriation of their
11 lands and resources, the prohibition of their cultural and
12 spiritual practices, and the reduction of their sovereign
13 rights, resulting in the complete elimination of their land in
14 the Illinois Territory, which later became the State of
15 Illinois; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that during this
18 bicentennial remembrance of the War of 1812, and in recognition
19 of all Native American peoples whose ancestors once lived on,
20 temporarily resided in, or traveled through the great State of
21 Illinois, we designate November 2012 as Native American History
22 Month and join governmental and public organizations in paying
23 tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native

1 Americans; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to the Illinois State Historical Society, the
4 American Indian Center in Chicago, the American Indian Museum
5 at the Smithsonian, in Washington, D. C. and the D'Arcy
6 McNickel Center for the History of the American Indian,
7 Newberry Library, in Chicago.