



HR0212

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to recognize Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated is the single-largest predominantly African-American women's organization in the nation and the only African-American women's organization to participate in the Women's Suffrage March of 1913; and

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WHEREAS, The sorority was founded on January 13, 1913, on the Howard University campus by 22 young women hoping to make strides in community service and education; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has amassed a membership of over 250,000 college-educated, esteemed and accomplished women, and has 900 chapters both in the U.S. and around the world; many of these women are distinguished trailblazers in their industry and well-known famous faces in education, television, film, politics, public service, civic engagement, medicine, science, entrepreneurship, and more; Delta women have marched for women's suffrage and participated on the public policy stage in state legislatures across the country and at the nation's capital; they have hosted countless mentorship and service

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1 programs in an effort to create change in their community; and

2 WHEREAS, Members have included activists Mary McLeod
3 Bethune and Dorothy Height and congresswomen Shirley Chisholm
4 and Barbara Jordan; other notable members include poet Nikki
5 Giovanni, Marian Wright Edelman, journalists Gwen Ifill and
6 Soledad O'Brien, singers Aretha Franklin, Lena Horne, Leontyne
7 Price, and Roberta Flack, and actresses Cicely Tyson and Ruby
8 Dee, and others including Alexis Herman, Camille Cosby, Betty
9 Shabazz, and many other notable women's history makers and
10 household names; and

11 WHEREAS, Over the past 100 years, Delta Chapter's across
12 the globe have developed rich programs that initiate social
13 change and advocacy, encourage academic excellence, and
14 elevate cultural awareness, based on the organization's Five
15 Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, International
16 Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and
17 Political Awareness and Involvement; the impressive efforts of
18 the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority founders can be seen and felt
19 across the country and the world; and

20 WHEREAS, A year-long celebration, 22-city tour of the Delta
21 Torch, which symbolizes the "passion and commitment to the
22 organization's global reach", which kicked off in Los Angeles
23 with Delta's historic participation in the 2013 Tournament of

1 Roses Parade and will continue through Seattle, Dallas, Little
2 Rock, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, Charlotte, New York City, and
3 Baltimore; and

4 WHEREAS, The tour will culminate in Washington, D.C. at the
5 51st national convention which is scheduled for July 11-17,
6 2013, when the torch is passed to the national president,
7 signifying the start of the organizations national convention;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we recognize the 100th anniversary of the founding of Delta
12 Sigma Theta Sorority and we pay honor to those women who have
13 blazed the trail and led us to this exciting point in history;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as an expression of our
17 esteem and respect.