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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis is a non-contagious systemic disease of unknown origin; it is commonly diagnosed with the detection of inflamed, microscopic growths called granulomas that grow and often affect the lungs, skin, eyes, and nervous system; and

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WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis can affect any organ of the body and more than one organ at any given time; and

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WHEREAS, The inflammation of such vital organs may cause seizures, blindness, disfiguring lesions, and heart failure; and

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WHEREAS, Some famous suffers of sarcoidosis include NBC sportscaster Darrian Chapman, Hall of Fame athletes Bill Russell and Reggie White, gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, and comedian Bernie Mac, who passed away as a result of sarcoidosis; many other celebrities have or have had sarcoidosis; and

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WHEREAS, Many individuals stricken with sarcoidosis eventually develop a serious disability or a potentially fatal condition; and

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WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis was once thought to be an uncommon

1 condition, but is now known to affect tens of thousands of
2 people throughout the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis afflicts African Americans up to 8
4 times more frequently than other races; and

5 WHEREAS, As many people with Sarcoidosis have no symptoms,
6 it is difficult to measure how many people have the condition;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis is a disease that affects Americans
9 nationwide and people around the world, yet its causes and
10 potential treatments remain a mystery; and

11 WHEREAS, Skin-related symptoms of this chronic,
12 multi-systemic disease were first recognized more than 100
13 years ago, but the effects of the disease on other organs were
14 not observed until recently; and

15 WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis was the chief diagnosis of the death
16 of fluorescent light bulb workers in Salem, Massachusetts in
17 the 1940s; and

18 WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis was the first diagnosis for an
19 overwhelming majority of rescue workers present at the World
20 Trade Center on September 11, 2001; and

1 WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis has been documented to be
2 disproportionately found among factory workers, Navy deck
3 grinders, and members of other military branches; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, researchers are still trying to learn more
5 about the causes, cures, and overall nature of sarcoidosis; and

6 WHEREAS, The American Lung Association, the National
7 Sarcoidosis Society, and the National Sarcoidosis Foundation
8 have actively advocated for more research to better understand
9 how environmental and occupational exposures may increase the
10 risk of sarcoidosis; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Sarcoidosis Society's Chicago
12 Headquarters and the National Sarcoidosis Foundation strive to
13 serve those afflicted by the disease by focusing efforts on
14 public policy, research, funding, patient services, support
15 group meet, public awareness, education, and finding a cure;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, It would be fitting to designate the month of
18 April 2015 as Illinois Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, a month
19 with worldwide events to increase public awareness of the need
20 to support individuals with sarcoidosis, educate others on the
21 environmental and occupational issues associated with

1 sarcoidosis, and educate medical and professionals who care for
2 individuals with sarcoidosis; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
5 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the month of April
6 2015 as Illinois Sarcoidosis Awareness Month in the State of
7 Illinois and show our support for the goals and ideals of
8 National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we encourage the federal government and the
10 other 49 states to show their support of the goals and ideals
11 of National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we recognize sarcoidosis' prominent yet
13 hidden role in America's workforce history and acknowledge the
14 diligent efforts of individuals and organizations who observe
15 National Sarcoidosis Awareness Month, and show our support for
16 research efforts to better understand the link between
17 sarcoidosis and specific occupations where sarcoidosis is
18 disproportionately represented.