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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the
3 State of Illinois learned with deep sorrow and regret of the
4 death of our friend and colleague, State Representative Esther
5 Golar of Chicago, on Monday, September 21, 2015; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Golar was born in Chicago on April
7 16, 1944, one of 9 children; a lifelong resident of Chicago's
8 South Side, she grew up in the West Englewood neighborhood,
9 graduated from Richard T. Crane High School and Malcolm X
10 College, and resided in the Englewood and New City
11 neighborhoods; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Golar made her mark as a dedicated
13 public servant and local leader, building local organizations,
14 advocating for greater public safety, and fighting for those
15 who struggle; she was a coordinator for the Chicago Alternative
16 Policing Strategy for more than 15 years and an organizer for
17 the Chicago Alliance for Neighborhood Safety, training
18 residents to build friendlier and safer communities; she was a
19 community service representative at Robert Fulton School and a
20 resident board member of Neighborhood Housing Services of
21 Chicago, Inc.; strong in faith, she attended and volunteered at
22 Trinity United Church of Christ; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Golar's passion for helping others
2 and improving the quality of life in Chicago and throughout the
3 State led to her involvement in dozens of community and service
4 organizations, including Children's Home and Aid, the Back of
5 the Yards Neighborhood Council, the Chicago Coalition for the
6 Homeless, LUBAA Women's Shelter, the Canaryville Little
7 League, Teamwork Englewood, the Englewood Black Chamber of
8 Commerce, Faith in Place, Ada S. McKinley Community Services,
9 The Arc of Illinois, Faith Coalition for the Common Good,
10 Illinois Action for Children, and the Anti-Violence Initiative
11 at the University of Chicago School of Public Health; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Golar worked for the Chicago
13 Police Department on Chicago's South and West sides in the
14 Troubled Buildings Unit and as a Community Policing
15 Coordinator; a testament to her selflessness and loyalty,
16 though she began her service with the Police Department on
17 Chicago's South Side, after she was transferred to the West
18 Side, she continued to help her coworkers on the South Side;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Golar joined the Illinois House of
21 Representatives in 2005; committed to constituent service, her
22 constituents would often stop her at the grocery store, the
23 pharmacy, and throughout the community asking for assistance;
24 she did her best to deliver needed services, from street

1 sweeping and street lighting to enforcing child support
2 payments; she regularly attended events in the community, such
3 as the Englewood Back to School Parade and the Resident
4 Association of Greater Englewood's "So Fresh Saturdays"
5 series; she visited and met with constituents, and worked to
6 build bridges and strengthen relationships for the betterment
7 of local neighborhoods; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Golar's legislative
9 responsibilities were a reflection of her priorities and her
10 determination to improve the lives of not only her constituents
11 but of all Illinois residents; she fought for safer
12 neighborhoods, stronger schools and additional educational
13 resources for children, equal access to health care and
14 economic development; she advocated for seniors, persons with
15 disabilities, and for better wages and a better standard of
16 living for the middle class and struggling families; one of the
17 first laws she passed was aimed at increasing State payments to
18 vendors of homemaker, chore, and housekeeping services for the
19 purpose of increasing employees' wages and providing health
20 insurance; and

21 WHEREAS, Throughout her nearly 10 years in the House of
22 Representatives, Representative Golar served as House
23 Chairwoman of the Legislative Black Caucus, Chair of the
24 Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum and

1 Policies Committee, Chair of the Public Policy and
2 Accountability for Education Committee, and Chair and
3 Vice-Chair of the Housing and Disability Services committees;
4 her committee membership included service on the Elementary and
5 Secondary Education, Child Support Enforcement, Health Care
6 Availability and Accessibility, Human Services Appropriations,
7 Elementary and Secondary Education Appropriations, and
8 Judiciary-Criminal Law Committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Golar's legislative achievements
10 include the Senator Penny Severns Memorial Award for her
11 advocacy for persons with disabilities, the Back of the Yards
12 Neighborhood Leadership Award, and the Safer Foundation's
13 CARRE Visionary Award for her outstanding contributions to
14 eliminate barriers to employment for people with criminal
15 records; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Golar was adored and respected by
17 her friends and colleagues and will be remembered for her
18 resolve, her commitment to public service, her devotion to
19 faith, her kindness, her sense of humor, and for bringing
20 levity to sometimes tense moments with her gift of song; her
21 quiet nature and friendly demeanor were a reflection of her
22 warm personality, but she never hesitated to rise and fight for
23 the disadvantaged, the most vulnerable and those who struggle;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Golar was a loving sister, the
2 proud mother of Tiffany Golar, and the devoted grandmother of
3 Briana Golar, Toni Common, Ananea Common, and Jayden Golar; and

4 WHEREAS, The death of Representative Golar is deeply felt
5 by her family, friends and all who knew and loved her, and her
6 presence at the State Capitol will be greatly missed;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we, along with her family and friends, mourn the passing of
11 State Representative Esther Golar; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Representative Golar as an
14 expression of our deepest sympathies and respect.