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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to honor the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Xi Nu Omega Chapter for the organization's work in the community and thank the Monarch Awards Foundation for honoring African-American men through the Monarch Awards Gala's "Tribute to Black Men" on November 28, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, The Monarch Awards Gala is the Monarch Awards Foundation's major fundraiser; the Gala's proceeds are used for scholarships, community programs, and non-profit grants; and

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WHEREAS, Through the Monarch Awards Foundation, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Xi Nu Omega Chapter contributes resources to help improve social and economic conditions through service initiatives and progressive educational enrichment, health promotion, family strengthening, environmental ownership, and global impact programming; the Monarch Awards has evolved from an annual fundraiser sponsored by a chapter of 30 women to a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation with a dues-paying membership of more than 300, implementing year-round programming, a charitable giving plan, a scholarship program, and 2 teen leadership development and mentoring programs; and

1 WHEREAS, The Monarch Awards Gala's first "Tribute to Black
2 Men" was held in November of 1983, when 12 distinguished
3 African-American men accepted their Monarch Awards and became
4 the freshman class of honorees; since its inception, the
5 "Tribute to Black Men" has honored 345 unsung heroes of their
6 communities; and

7 WHEREAS, The 2015 "Tribute to Black Men" honorees are
8 Spencer Leak, Jr. (Business), Phillip R. Hampton (Education),
9 Khary Y.S. Armster (Outstanding Youth), Dr. Marlon E. Everett
10 (Professional Achievement), Terry G. Hillard (Public Service),
11 and Rev. Dr. Joel D. Taylor (Religion); and

12 WHEREAS, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Xi Nu Omega Chapter,
13 the Monarch Awards Foundation, and the 2015 "Tribute to Black
14 Men" honorees all serve as models of hard work, integrity, and
15 dedication for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 honor the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Xi Nu Omega Chapter for
20 the organization's work in the community, thank the Monarch
21 Awards Foundation for honoring African-American men through
22 the Monarch Awards Gala's "Tribute to Black Men", and wish both
23 organizations continued success in the future; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
3 presented to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the Monarch Awards
4 Foundation as a symbol of our esteem and respect.