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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 517

2 WHEREAS, It is the sense of the Illinois Senate to
3 recognize and commend individuals and events which celebrate
4 our nation's great struggle to fulfill the promise of equality
5 and opportunity for all; and

6 WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with
7 its long-standing traditions, the State of Illinois is justly
8 proud to commemorate the 90th birthday of Malcolm X, a singular
9 human rights activist and one of the most influential
10 African-American leaders in history; and

11 WHEREAS, Malcolm X was born Malcolm Little in Omaha,
12 Nebraska, on May 19, 1925; on January 14, 1958, he married
13 Betty Sanders; they had 6 children, Attallah, Qubilah, Iiyasah,
14 Gamilah, Malaak, and Malukah; and

15 WHEREAS, Malcolm X was a Muslim minister, public speaker,
16 and human rights activist; to his admirers, he was a courageous
17 advocate for the rights of African-Americans in the face of
18 institutionalized racism and an organizer of the
19 African-American community across the United States and the
20 State of Illinois to stand up to inequality and injustices and
21 secure freedom; and

1 WHEREAS, Malcolm X's pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia,
2 proved life-altering; he shared his thoughts and beliefs with
3 different cultures and found the common thread that equality is
4 not just a matter of civil rights but human rights; and

5 WHEREAS, When he returned to the United States, Malcolm X
6 mentioned that he had met men of all races that he could call
7 his brothers; he also returned to the United States with an
8 outlook on the African-American struggle for equality, a new
9 message for all citizens, and a new hope for opportunity for
10 all; and

11 WHEREAS, Perhaps Malcolm X's greatest contribution to
12 society was underscoring the value of a truly free populace by
13 demonstrating the great lengths to which human beings will go
14 to secure their freedom; "Power in defense of freedom is
15 greater than power in behalf of tyranny and oppression," he
16 stated, "Because power, real power, comes from our conviction
17 which produces action..."; and

18 WHEREAS, Malcolm X advocated for equality and, in the 1964
19 election year, for each citizen to exercise their right to vote
20 and produce positive change through the democratic process; and

21 WHEREAS, On February 21, 1965, Malcolm X was assassinated
22 while giving a lecture in the Audubon Ballroom in New York

1 City; the ballroom was subsequently designated as a landmark
2 and currently houses the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz
3 Memorial and Educational Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Malcolm X died fighting to uphold the universal
5 message of human rights for all: that every human has the right
6 to dignity and rights in the country they live in, while being
7 honored as a valuable contribution to the diverse tapestry that
8 is America; and

9 WHEREAS, Malcolm X designated his last name as "X" so long
10 as the situation that demanded it continued to exist, meaning
11 that he cared about the human rights of all peoples, and not
12 only those of particular communities; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1969, in honor of the slain civil rights
14 leader, Crane Junior College in Chicago was renamed Malcolm X
15 College; and

16 WHEREAS, In January of 1999, the United States Postal
17 Service announced the debut of the new Malcolm X postage stamp;
18 the 33-cent commemorative stamp is the 22nd stamp in the Postal
19 Service's Black Heritage series; the Postal Service declared
20 that Malcolm X was one of the most "influential Black leaders
21 of the 1960s", and that he shaped the debate about race
22 relations and strategies for social change; and

1 WHEREAS, Malcolm X worked to advance human rights for all;
2 Chicago and New York were the 2 main cities that he worked in;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Malcolm X Day recognizes human rights for all and
5 aligns with the State's and the City of Chicago's commitment to
6 embracing and celebrating the diversity of their populations;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing a Malcolm X Day in Illinois is a way
9 to continue to express its commitment to human rights for all
10 by recognizing the message of Malcolm X in these lands;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate May 19,
14 2015, and every May 19 thereafter as Malcolm X Day in the State
15 of Illinois; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we encourage the citizens of Illinois to pay
17 tribute to the life and works of Malcolm X through
18 participation in community service projects on this day and ask
19 the Members of this Body to urge their constituents to do the
20 same; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we recognize the inherent value of community
2 service and volunteerism in the creation of an equal society
3 and as a means of progress consistent with the works of Malcolm
4 X; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge that, by serving one's
6 community and one's neighbor, the State of Illinois makes
7 progress in opportunity and equality for all, consistent with
8 the values and life's work of Malcolm X.