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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Dr. Webb Evans founded the United American  
3 Progress Association in 1961; Dr. Evans believed in and worked  
4 on the creation of economic prosperity for the black community  
5 throughout the world through churches and political and  
6 business leaders in accordance with the second phase of Dr.  
7 Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision, changing the struggle from  
8 Civil Rights to Economic and Political Empowerment; and

9           WHEREAS, Dr. Evans' foundation created numerous ways to  
10 improve economic conditions for black Americans by preparing  
11 them to enter into the business world with the knowledge on how  
12 to redirect their savings and spending power globally and  
13 throughout the black communities; these black-owned businesses  
14 would, in turn, create more jobs for blacks; and

15           WHEREAS, Dr. Evans also depended on other sources, such as  
16 black-owned press outlets, churches, and businesses, to get his  
17 message across to "Buy Black"; Dr. Evans believed that black  
18 dollars matter and that the black community must march with  
19 their dollars in order to accomplish what was not accomplished  
20 with the other previous marches across the globe; and

21           WHEREAS, The Neilson Report shows that the buying power of  
22 African Americans will reach \$1.1 trillion by 2015; if black

1 consumers spend 10% more of their income in black businesses,  
2 the resulting revenue would generate 1 million jobs; in 2007,  
3 on the south side of Chicago, residents in predominately black  
4 neighborhoods spent a collective of \$3.8 billion outside of  
5 their own South Side communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Many trailblazers and influential leaders have  
7 stood for economic, social equality, and independence for  
8 African Americans throughout the world and have labored, fought  
9 for, and understood how it was, including Marcus Garvey, who  
10 fought for the collective economic interest of African  
11 Americans and created the Universal Improvement Association in  
12 1914; A. Philip Randolph, founder and co-editor of The  
13 Messenger, an African American socialist magazine, renowned  
14 black labor union organizer and civil rights worker, and  
15 principal organizer and author of the March on Washington,  
16 where Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his historical "I Have A  
17 Dream" speech; W.E.B. Dubois, leader of the Niagara Movement, a  
18 group of African-American activists who wanted equal rights for  
19 blacks; and Malcolm X, one of the most pivotal figures in civil  
20 rights history; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
22 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
23 designate the month of August in 2017 as Buy Black, Love Black,  
24 and Give Black in the State of Illinois; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That we urge all citizens of this State to help  
2 build a solid economic foundation that would allow African  
3 Americans to shape their own destinies and maximize their  
4 economic interests through various means, including opening an  
5 account at a local black bank, supporting historically black  
6 colleges and universities, eating at black owned restaurants,  
7 hiring black real estate brokers, visiting black doctors and  
8 dentists for health care, getting building and other quotes  
9 from black contractors, visiting African-American museums and  
10 libraries, watching or renting black-produced films,  
11 subscribing to black newspapers, magazines, and websites,  
12 using black caterers and event planners, visiting black  
13 retailers, investing with a black-managed, publicly-traded  
14 firm, contributing to a black political candidate, visiting a  
15 black cultural event, and participating in Buy Black Wednesday  
16 by spending money with a black business every Wednesday.