



HR0140

LRB100 10278 MST 21838 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff, considered the first flag of the
3 Americas, represents the stature and honor of a particular
4 Native American tribe or tribes; it commonly looks like a
5 shepherd's staff, wrapped in either otter skin or buffalo skin,
6 and featuring eagle feathers; pre-dating colonization, the
7 Eagle Staff was the indicator of a tribe's accomplishments in
8 battle and the integrity and honor of its people; today, it is
9 used to represent tribal communities, Native American and First
10 Nation organizations, or a member of an honor society or a
11 service veteran; and

12 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff represents tribal sovereignty,
13 unity, and tradition, and reflects the honor bestowed upon an
14 individual, tribal organization, or tribal elder; the Eagle
15 Staff is typically carried by Native American veterans of the
16 United States Armed Forces; Native Americans have served in
17 greater numbers per capita than any other ethnicity across all
18 branches of the military; and

19 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is a proud legacy of the Native
20 American people; it is the embodiment of the warrior and of
21 enduring fortitude which together have enabled the tribes to
22 survive policies intended to extinguish their race and culture;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is adorned with eagle feathers
2 symbolizing the remembrance of fallen warriors; because eagles
3 and eagle features are highly revered and federally protected,
4 only a few federal agencies and enrolled native people may
5 carry them; the eagle feather is the highest award that can be
6 given by a tribe to its people; and

7 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is recognized by all Native
8 American tribes, First Nations, and other Native American
9 organizations; the Eagle Staff is welcomed into all
10 communities, including Native American and First Nation
11 communities, with a flag song or victory song and is always
12 presented ahead of any other flag; and

13 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is formally recognized by all
14 branches of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Canadian
15 Department of National Defence; and

16 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is recognized and honored by the
17 National Congress of American Indians, the Illinois Secretary
18 of State Veterans' Advisory Council, and the McCormick
19 Foundation Veterans Program; and

20 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is honored at Chicago Blackhawks
21 games during the playing of the National Anthem; and

1 WHEREAS, The Eagle Staff is recognized by the Trickster Art
2 Gallery, a Native American art gallery and museum in
3 Schaumburg; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 recognize the Eagle Staff as the first flag of the sovereign
7 Native American tribal nations and the First Nations; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That we renew our commitment to cooperate with
10 tribes, inter-governmental tribes, and Native American
11 organizations, including Native American veterans
12 organizations and the Trickster Art Gallery, to encourage
13 programs promoting cultural education of the significance of
14 the Eagle Staff; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois is committed to
16 inclusiveness for all Native Americans, the traditions and
17 symbolism of the Eagle Staff, and that we encourage all
18 Illinois state government departments to incorporate these
19 principles into their policies and practices.