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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize Dr. Walt Whitman and the Soul  
4 Children of Chicago as they celebrate 35 years of being a  
5 successful arts program with proven results of engaging  
6 children and helping to turn them into globally responsible  
7 leaders; and

8           WHEREAS, The Soul Children of Chicago was established in  
9 1981, starting with one man and 22 children; Dr. Whitman  
10 developed a world class performance group with a single-minded  
11 purpose: to utilize music as the motivator and catalyst to  
12 inspire young people throughout the world to have faith in  
13 themselves, each other, and God; the objective is to "Educate  
14 the Minds, Elevate the Spirits, and Illuminate the Souls of Our  
15 Youth; and

16           WHEREAS, The Spiritual and professional discipline of Dr.  
17 Whitman forms the foundation and reason for the standard of  
18 excellence set forth and continuously achieved in every aspect  
19 of the Soul Children; this is the driving force behind their  
20 vocal and performance skills; it builds character and creates  
21 servant leaders of integrity in education, family, business,  
22 arts and entertainment, government, religion, and media; and

1           WHEREAS, Over the years, Soul Children has touched the  
2 lives of thousands of Chicago youth who have traveled and  
3 performed with the group; this organization has played an  
4 important role in serving Chicago youth from some of the  
5 toughest areas in the city, helping to turn them into  
6 successful men and women; the Englewood-based organization  
7 serves children aged seven to 17 from all over Chicago and  
8 suburban Cook County; the organization's music and reach is so  
9 expansive that it has encouraged the creation of more than 100  
10 Soul Children choirs around the world; and

11           WHEREAS, To this day, Dr. Whitman and the Soul Children of  
12 Chicago continue to serve the community as a  
13 non-denominational, non-profit, educational organization  
14 dedicated to enhancing the lives of our youth; the Soul  
15 Children remain passionate and committed to being the change  
16 they desire to create; they lead with integrity and  
17 authenticity, consistently embracing new challenges, promoting  
18 peace and happiness, and inspiring people all over the world;  
19 therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
22 recognize Dr. Walt Whitman and the Soul Children of Chicago as  
23 they celebrate 35 years of being a successful arts program, and  
24 we wish them many more successful years; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to the Soul Children of Chicago as a symbol of our  
3 respect and esteem.