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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

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2 WHEREAS, It is in keeping with time-honored traditions to 3 recognize and applaud events which foster ethnic pride and 4 exemplify the cultural diversity which represents and 5 strengthens the fabric of the communities of the State of 6 Illinois; and

WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican People's Parade affirms the culture, identity, and self-esteem of a people; it celebrates a rich heritage and exemplifies Puerto Rican/Latin/a history and tradition, as well as the spirit of an indomitable people; and

WHEREAS, The 39th Puerto Rican People's Parade will be held on June 17, 2017 to recognize the contributions of Puerto Rican culture, as well as the thousands of Puerto Ricans around the State and nation; and

WHEREAS, Established to develop national awareness and greater appreciation of Puerto Rican culture, the Puerto Rican People's Parade is a tribute to the unique Puerto Rican heritage and ethnicity and the role its people play in American society; and

WHEREAS, This year the Parade is dedicated to "El Retorno Del Patriota a Su Barrio, Celebrando 50 Anos Forjando Comunidad

- 1 y Forjando Patria"; and
- 2 WHEREAS, On June 11, 2017, the National Puerto Rican Parade
- 3 in New York City will honor Patriot Oscar Lopez Rivera with the
- 4 Hero Award; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Oscar Lopez Rivera, Puerto Rico's National Hero,
- 6 will finally walk among the community; as grand marshal for
- 7 this year's parade, he was a pioneer, along with Don Omar as
- 8 honored special quest, and Andy Montanez; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Oscar Lopez Rivera represents a symbol of hope to
- 10 Puerto Ricans everywhere in the world, inclusive of the
- 11 departed Jonathan Rivera Lizardi, Oscar Lopez Rivera's biggest
- 12 fan; and
- WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Inc., through a
- 14 series of cultural events, including musical productions,
- 15 plays and art exhibits throughout the United States, and
- 16 culminating in the Puerto Rican People's Parade on June 17,
- 17 2017, champions the study, improvement, and advancement of
- 18 Puerto Rican culture and the arts; and
- 19 WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Inc. is
- 20 dedicated to preserving, promoting, and encouraging a true
- 21 understanding and greater appreciation of the spirit and

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- largess of the Puerto Rican people; and
- WHEREAS, Now in his 12th term, Congressman Luis V.

 Gutierrez is the senior member of the Illinois delegation in

 the United States House of Representatives; he is an

 experienced legislator and energetic spokesman on behalf of his

 constituents in Illinois' Fourth District in the heart of

 Chicago, who first elected him to his seat in 1992; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Rep. Gutierrez is nationally recognized for his 9 tireless leadership championing issues of particular 10 importance to Latino and immigrant communities; he has been at 11 the center of every major legislative debate on immigration 12 reform and immigration issues for more than a dozen years; and
- WHEREAS, The Puerto Rican People's Parade honors his 30th year in public service; therefore, be it
 - RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize with appreciation and anticipation, the worthy purpose and promising vision of the 39th Puerto Rican People's Parade which fosters ethnic pride and enhances the profile of cultural diversity which strengthens the fabric of the State of Illinois; and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
- Jose E. Lopez, Executive Director of The Puerto Rican Cultural
- 3 Center Juan Antonio Corretjer, Inc.