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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Illinois Secretary  
4 of State Jesse White and the members of the Jesse White  
5 Tumbling Team on the occasion of the team's 50th anniversary in  
6 2009; and

7           WHEREAS, The Jesse White Tumbling Team has thrilled  
8 audiences since December 8, 1959, when Illinois Secretary of  
9 State Jesse White, the team's founder and coach, created the  
10 team to provide a recreational, athletic, educational, and  
11 cultural enrichment experience for young people throughout the  
12 State; the team makes over 1,000 appearances each year; and

13           WHEREAS, The Jesse White Tumbling Team's acrobatic  
14 performances can frequently be seen during half-time shows for  
15 the National Basketball Association, the National Football  
16 League, and Major League and Minor League Baseball games; the  
17 team has appeared on numerous television programs, including  
18 Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show, Good Morning  
19 America, The Jenny Jones Show, the Mickey Mouse Club, and How'd  
20 They Do That; to their credit, the team has appeared in 4  
21 movies and 25 commercials; the team entertains at business and  
22 sporting events year-round, including colleges and  
23 universities nationwide; the team also performed during the

1 52nd, 53rd, and 54th Presidential Inaugural Parades; and

2 WHEREAS, The Jesse White Tumbling Team has performed in 6  
3 countries outside of the United States of America and has an  
4 international following; the team's fans can be found from  
5 Tokyo, Japan, to Hong Kong, China, Bermuda, Jamaica, and  
6 Canada; and

7 WHEREAS, A number of the Jesse White Tumblers, some of whom  
8 are as young as 6 years old, are residents of Chicago's Henry  
9 Horner housing development; other members of the team are  
10 residents from 11 communities within the Chicago metropolitan  
11 area; and

12 WHEREAS, The Jesse White Tumbling Team was designed to be a  
13 juvenile delinquency prevention program that helps youngsters  
14 "grow tall and straight"; the members are required to abide by  
15 Jesse White's strict rules, which include staying in school,  
16 maintaining a "C" average in academic coursework, and staying  
17 away from gangs and drugs; and

18 WHEREAS, Due to Jesse White's "tough love" approach and his  
19 active involvement as coach, teacher, friend, mentor,  
20 confidant, and surrogate father to the members, over 12,000  
21 young men and women have benefited from the program since the  
22 team's inception; and

1           WHEREAS, The Jesse White Tumbling Team will celebrate the  
2           50th anniversary of the creation of the team during a reception  
3           and dinner on February 23, 2010 at the United Center in  
4           Chicago; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6           NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7           congratulate Jesse White and all the past and present members  
8           of the Jesse White Tumbling Team on the occasion of the team's  
9           50th anniversary and thank Illinois Secretary of State Jesse  
10          White for the creation of this wonderful program, for putting  
11          his heart and soul into it, and for the countless fans they  
12          have entertained; and be it further

13          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14          presented to Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White as a  
15          symbol of our esteem and respect.