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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to honor Reverend Jesse L. Jackson,  
4 Sr. as one of America's foremost civil rights, religious, and  
5 political figures; and

6           WHEREAS, For 40 years, Reverend Jackson has played pivotal  
7 roles in movements for peace, civil rights, gender equality,  
8 and economic and social justice; on August 9, 2000, President  
9 Bill Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the  
10 nation's highest civilian honor; and

11           WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's work in human and civil rights  
12 has garnered him more than 40 honorary doctorate degrees, and  
13 he frequently lectures at major colleges and universities  
14 including Howard, Yale, Princeton, Morehouse, Harvard,  
15 Columbia, Stanford, and Hampton; in November of 2007, he was  
16 made an Honorary Fellow of Regents Park College at Oxford  
17 University in the United Kingdom and received an Honorary  
18 Fellowship from Edge Hill University in Liverpool, England; in  
19 March of 2010, he was inducted into England's prestigious  
20 Cambridge Union Society and in April of 2010, he was awarded an  
21 honorary doctorate from the University of KwaZulu-Natal in  
22 South Africa; and

1           WHEREAS, In December of 1971, Reverend Jackson founded  
2           Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity), with the goal  
3           of economic empowerment and expanding educational, business,  
4           and employment opportunities for the disadvantaged and people  
5           of color; in 1984, he founded the National Rainbow Coalition, a  
6           social justice organization devoted to political empowerment,  
7           education, and changing public policy; and

8           WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson's presidential campaigns of 1984  
9           and 1988 broke new ground in United States' politics; he won  
10          historic victories, coming in first or second in 46 out of 54  
11          contests; and

12          WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson has always had a commitment to  
13          youth; he has visited thousands of high schools, colleges,  
14          universities, and correctional facilities encouraging  
15          excellence, inspiring hope, and challenging young people to  
16          study and stay drug-free; and

17          WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson has been a consistent and  
18          vigorous supporter of the labor movement in the U.S. and around  
19          the world and is known as someone who has walked more picket  
20          lines and spoken at more labor rallies than any other national  
21          leader; and

22          WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson has received numerous honors for

1 his work in human and civil rights and nonviolent social  
2 change; in 1991, the U.S. Post Office put his likeness on a  
3 pictorial postal cancellation, only the second living person to  
4 receive such an honor; he has been on the Gallup List of the  
5 Ten Most Respected Americans for more than a dozen years, and  
6 he has received the prestigious NAACP Spingarn Award, in  
7 addition to honors from hundreds of grassroots, civic, and  
8 community organizations from coast to coast; in 2009, UK Prime  
9 Minister Gordon Brown bestowed the "Global Diversity and  
10 Inclusion Award" on him at 10 Downing Street; and

11 WHEREAS, Reverend Jackson has been called the "Conscience  
12 of the Nation" and "the Great Unifier", challenging America to  
13 be inclusive and to establish just and humane priorities for  
14 the benefit of all; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we honor Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. as one of America's  
18 foremost civil rights, religious, and political figures; and be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to Reverend Jackson, Sr. as an expression of our  
22 esteem and respect.