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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend individuals whose lives
4 reflect extraordinary achievement, service, and leadership
5 within their communities and throughout our State; and

6 WHEREAS, The Reverend Dr. Jeremiah Alvesta Wright Jr. has
7 given a lifetime of service to ministry, education, and the
8 African American community, and this year marks his 65th year
9 of membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., one of the
10 most storied and service-oriented organizations in the nation;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright, the son of the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah
13 A. Wright Sr., a Baptist minister, and Dr. Mary Elizabeth
14 Henderson Wright, a dedicated teacher, an education
15 administrator, and the first African American vice principal
16 of Philadelphia High School for Girls, was born in
17 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1941; and

18 WHEREAS, After graduating from Central High School of
19 Philadelphia in 1959, Rev. Wright attended Virginia Union
20 University, where he pledged Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
21 through the Zeta Chapter in 1960, continuing the family legacy
22 begun by his father, who pledged the same chapter in 1936; and

1 WHEREAS, Following his time at Virginia Union University,
2 Rev. Wright served in the United States Marine Corps and later
3 in the United States Navy, where he trained as a
4 cardiopulmonary technician and was assigned to the medical
5 team caring for President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright earned his bachelor's and master's
7 degrees at Howard University, a second master's degree at the
8 University of Chicago Divinity School, and a Doctor of
9 Ministry from United Theological Seminary, where he studied
10 under Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor; and

11 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright became pastor of Trinity United
12 Church of Christ in Chicago in 1972, and he transformed a
13 congregation of fewer than 100 members into one of the largest
14 and most influential Black churches in America with a total of
15 8,000 active members; and

16 WHEREAS, Under Rev. Wright's leadership, Trinity United
17 Church of Christ became a national model for Black Liberation
18 Theology, Africentrism, cultural affirmation, and community
19 engagement, emphasizing the inseparable link between faith,
20 education, and social justice; and

21 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright's impact extends far beyond the

1 pulpit; he has taught at Chicago Theological Seminary,
2 Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and Virginia Union
3 University, mentoring more than 40 seminarians who proceeded
4 to earn advanced degrees and lead congregations across the
5 country; and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright is the author of four books of
7 sermons and the historical volume A Sankofa Moment: The
8 History of Trinity United Church of Christ, the subject matter
9 of Black Prophetic Patriotism, an academic volume that
10 critically and constructively examines his life and legacy,
11 focusing on his patriotic promotion of inclusion within the
12 church and society, and his scholarship in Africana studies,
13 Black sacred music, and the African American religious
14 experience, and this work continues to influence students,
15 pastors, and theologians worldwide; and

16 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright has been recognized with a
17 Rockefeller Fellowship, the Carver Medal from Simpson College,
18 nine honorary doctorates, and countless awards for ministry
19 and public service; in recognition of his lifetime of ministry
20 and mentorship, he was awarded the Omega Lifetime Achievement
21 Award by the Supreme Council of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
22 during the 82nd Grand Conclave in July 2020; and

23 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright remains an active member of Omega Psi

1 Phi Fraternity, Inc., upholding the fraternity's Four Cardinal
2 Principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift
3 for more than six decades; and

4 WHEREAS, Rev. Wright's 65-year membership in Omega Psi Phi
5 Fraternity, Inc. stands as a testament to brotherhood, faith,
6 scholarship, and endurance, and it further serves as
7 inspiration to every young man who seeks to serve his
8 community and his faith with distinction; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we commend the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah Alvesta Wright Jr. on the
12 occasion of his 65th year of membership in Omega Psi Phi
13 Fraternity, Inc., and we commend his extraordinary
14 contributions to ministry, education, and the spiritual life
15 of Illinois and the nation; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That we thank Rev. Wright for his lifetime of
17 service, scholarship, and unwavering faith; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Rev. Wright as an expression of our esteem and
20 respect.