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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois proudly recognizes artists,  
3 educators, and cultural institutions whose work enriches our  
4 communities, preserves our shared heritage, and uplifts young  
5 people across our state; and

6           WHEREAS, Chicago is internationally recognized as the home  
7 of modern Blues music, a tradition built by legendary  
8 musicians who have transformed the city into a global cultural  
9 capital; and

10           WHEREAS, Fernando Jones, a Chicago native, is an  
11 award-winning, multi-instrumentalist, educator, historian,  
12 and cultural ambassador who has dedicated his life to  
13 preserving, teaching, and advancing the Blues art form, and he  
14 has stewarded this mission with distinction for more than  
15 three decades; and

16           WHEREAS, The Blues Kids of America brand was created on  
17 the South Side of Chicago in 1989 on the principle of  
18 developing a local program that could be scaled nationally and  
19 internationally; and

20           WHEREAS, The Blues Kids Foundation was formally  
21 established in 2009 to expand this mission, and 21 years after

1 its inception, Blues Camp achieved that vision in 2010 by  
2 becoming a world-class, internationally recognized youth music  
3 education program; and

4 WHEREAS, The Blues Kids Foundation produces Blues Camp, a  
5 free, week-long and intensive learning experience held  
6 annually in Chicago that brings together youth from diverse  
7 backgrounds to train with world-class musicians, build  
8 confidence, gain performance experience, and learn the  
9 cultural and historical foundations of the Blues; and

10 WHEREAS, Blues Camp has become one of the premier youth  
11 music education programs in the nation, serving thousands of  
12 students since its inception and showcasing the best of  
13 Illinois' commitment to the arts, community engagement, and  
14 youth empowerment; and

15 WHEREAS, Through Blues Camp and other year-round  
16 initiatives, Fernando Jones and the Blues Kids Foundation have  
17 created safe, transformative, and intergenerational spaces  
18 that inspire creativity, strengthen communities, and ensure  
19 the Blues tradition remains alive for generations to come; and

20 WHEREAS, The work of Fernando Jones and the Blues Kids  
21 Foundation contributes to Illinois' cultural economy, enhances  
22 Chicago's global reputation as a center for music innovation,

1 and provides life-changing opportunities for young people  
2 across the state and nation; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we declare the week of July 5 through July 10, 2026 as Blues  
6 Kids Week in the State of Illinois in recognition of the annual  
7 Blues Camp in Chicago and in celebration of Illinois' rich  
8 Blues legacy; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That we recognize Fernando Jones and the Blues  
10 Kids Foundation for their extraordinary contributions to music  
11 education, cultural preservation, and youth development; and  
12 be it further

13       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 presented to Fernando Jones and the Blues Kids Foundation as a  
15 symbol of our esteem and respect.