



HR0794

LRB104 21130 MST 35414 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to justice,
3 inclusion, and honoring the service and sacrifice of all
4 veterans, including those from the LGBTQIA+ community; and

5 WHEREAS, Members of the LGBTQIA+ community have served
6 their neighbors and our State as legislators and local elected
7 officials, leading on countless issues important to the people
8 of Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, numerous
10 LGBTQIA+ individuals have served honorably in the United
11 States Armed Forces, despite facing systemic discrimination,
12 invisibility, and forced silence; and

13 WHEREAS, Harvey Milk, one of the first openly gay elected
14 officials in the United States, previously served in the
15 United States Navy as a diving officer; and

16 WHEREAS, From 1994 to 2011, the military's "Don't Ask,
17 Don't Tell" (DADT) policy prevented openly LGBTQIA+ service
18 members from serving without fear of discharge, often leading
19 to the loss of military careers, benefits, and dignity; and

20 WHEREAS, Although DADT was repealed through the Don't Ask,

1 Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, thousands of veterans
2 discharged under the policy still struggle to access earned
3 benefits and receive the recognition they deserve due to
4 discharge statuses that remain less than honorable; and

5 WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ veterans, particularly transgender
6 veterans and veterans of color, continue to face barriers to
7 care, equity, and acknowledgment within the broader veteran
8 support system; and

9 WHEREAS, The success of the movement for equal service for
10 the LGBTQIA+ community has suffered a setback by way of
11 administrative action that currently restricts the ability of
12 transgender people to serve openly; and

13 WHEREAS, Members of the LGBTQIA+ community in the United
14 States and around the world still face discrimination,
15 violence, and proposed rollbacks in state and federal
16 protections, and bias-based crimes based on sexual orientation
17 and gender identity are on the rise; and

18 WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ veterans have demonstrated great courage
19 and commitment to defending the principles upon which the
20 United States was founded and which the United States
21 continues to uphold; and

1 WHEREAS, LGBTQIA+ veterans and service members have earned
2 and deserve the same dignity, respect, honor, treatment,
3 health care, and benefits that are owed to everyone who has
4 served; and

5 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the service and
6 celebrate the contributions of all veterans and to advocate
7 for full inclusion and justice for LGBTQIA+ veterans whose
8 contributions and sacrifices have too often gone unrecognized;
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare July 2026 as LGBTQIA+ Veterans Month in the State of
13 Illinois as we continue to work toward full equality for our
14 LGBTQIA+ family, friends, and neighbors; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we call upon all residents to honor the
16 service of LGBTQIA+ veterans, support their pursuit of
17 justice, and celebrate their enduring contributions to our
18 nation and our community.