



SR0311

LRB104 13565 MST 26128 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the Polish Museum of America on the 90th
4 anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America was founded in
6 Chicago by the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America on
7 October 15, 1935; and

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WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America's first curator was
9 Mieczyslaw Haiman, who began cataloging a sizable and
10 invaluable collection of documents, which opened to the public
11 on January 12, 1937 as a single room museum; it continued to
12 grow over the decades and now fills four floors; and

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WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America gained autonomous
14 status in 1960 and was reincorporated in 1971; its library
15 opened on April 18, 1915 as the library of the Polish Roman
16 Catholic Union of America and was consolidated with the museum
17 in 1960; and

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WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America's library includes
19 more than 100,000 titles; its archives hold almost 400 unique
20 collections, and its photography archives consist of over
21 5,000 photos; the music collection is comprised of 840 titles

1 of printed sheet music and 5400 record titles cataloged
2 online; and

3 WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America and its collections
4 have been recognized internationally; it was bestowed the Gold
5 Medal for Merit to Culture (Gloria Artis Medal) by the
6 Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of
7 Poland in September 2016; documents from the Polish National
8 Department, the first collection of the museum, were added to
9 the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in September 2018; and

10 WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America has received
11 numerous distinguished visitors, including Pope Saint John
12 Paul II, when he was Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, President Barack
13 Obama as a U.S. Senator, Poland President Lech Walesa,
14 Cardinal Joseph Glemp, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski, Gen. Jozef
15 Haller, and Poland President Andrzej Duda and First Lady Agata
16 Kornhauser-Duda; and

17 WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America has hosted the
18 official State of Illinois Pulaski Day Observance on the first
19 Monday in March since 1987; and

20 WHEREAS, The Polish Museum of America is an integral part
21 of the dynamic mosaic of cultural life in Chicago and across
22 the United States, and its mission is to promulgate the rich

1 cultural history of the Polish people by collecting,
2 preserving, interpreting, and displaying materials related to
3 this heritage and to integrate these resources into
4 appropriate programs, activities, and exhibitions that enrich
5 the intellectual and artistic lives of all members of society;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
9 Polish Museum of America on the 90th anniversary of its
10 founding, and we wish it many more wonderful years; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the Polish Museum of America as a symbol of our
14 respect and esteem.