



SR0572

LRB104 17016 LAW 30431 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to recognize Adwa Day on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Adwa on March 2, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Adwa Day is an Ethiopian national holiday celebrated on March 2nd each year by more than 130 million people in Ethiopia and throughout the Ethiopian Diaspora; and

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WHEREAS, Adwa Day commemorates the pivotal Battle of Adwa, where a militia of more than 100,000 men and women decisively fought off European colonialism in the mountain town of Adwa, Ethiopia on March 2, 1896; and

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WHEREAS, Emperor Menelik II and his shrewd wife, Empress Taitu, successfully united the ethnic provincial groups of Tigray, Gonder, Wello, Oromo, Gojjam, and parts of modern-day Eritrea, people spread across more than 1,000 miles of differing altitudes and terrain, during a time of ethnic division in order to defend Ethiopia's freedom and independence; and

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WHEREAS, Emperor Menelik II miraculously mobilized troops from all over Ethiopia, while Empress Taitu created the blueprint that led to the overwhelming defeat of the army of

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1 the Kingdom of Italy, which was seeking to establish a
2 colonial empire in East Africa at the time; and

3 WHEREAS, As Ethiopian men served in cavalries and
4 infantries while armed with rifles, spears, and swords,
5 Ethiopian women secured water and food, supplied medical care
6 to the injured, acted as prison guards and morale boosters,
7 provided intelligence as spies, and walked with the armies for
8 over 600 miles to protect and defend their country as a family,
9 ensuring Ethiopia's victory; and

10 WHEREAS, Ethiopia holds the distinction as the only
11 African nation to remain independent and sovereign, never
12 colonized, and officially recognized by global powers
13 throughout the 19th and 20th centuries; and

14 WHEREAS, Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taitu continue to
15 serve as powerful and ineradicable symbols of freedom for
16 Black and African peoples globally and as paragons of African
17 resistance to colonialism; and

18 WHEREAS, Adwa Day is further commemorated with a number of
19 songs, including "Tikur Sew" by Teddy Afro and "Taitu" by
20 Yegna, featuring Aster Aweke, which were written to celebrate
21 the great military victory and the Adwa Victory Memorial in
22 Ethiopia; and

1 WHEREAS, Adwa Day is observed by many in Illinois due to
2 the State being home to a sizable Ethiopian and Eritrean
3 population, such as the 7th District of the Illinois State
4 Senate; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize Adwa Day
7 on the 130th anniversary of the Battle of Adwa on March 2,
8 2026, as it serves as a source of inspiration for all
9 freedom-loving people in the State of Illinois and for
10 generations to come; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we recognize Ethiopian women for their
12 instrumental involvement in the Battle of Adwa, whose actions
13 secured their country's freedom and independence.