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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Holocaust was the systemic annihilation of six million Jews and millions of other victims by the Nazis in the Second World War; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is the home to many Holocaust survivors and their families; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Illinois was one of the first states in the nation to require education on the Holocaust in public schools; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Millennial Holocaust Knowledge and Awareness Survey, released in September of 2020, demonstrated that 59 percent of Illinoisans did not know that six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust and that 54 percent of Illinois respondents could not name a single concentration camp or ghetto; and

WHEREAS, According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2019 Hate Crimes Statistics Report, hate crimes rose to their highest in a decade with a record breaking 51 fatal attacks; there were 953 reports of anti-Jewish hate crimes in 2019; this is a 14% increase from the previous year; and

1 WHEREAS, Jewish students on college campuses in Illinois
2 have endured an unrelenting campaign of anti-Semitic
3 harassment, which led to an investigation by the United States
4 Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights into the
5 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for its response to
6 such acts on campus; and

7 WHEREAS, Teaching the lessons of the Holocaust leads to an
8 understanding of the ramifications of prejudice and racism,
9 encourages tolerance of diversity, and nurtures the protection
10 of democratic values and institutions; and

11 WHEREAS, On January 27, 1945, the Nazi Concentration and
12 Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated by the
13 Allied troops; and

14 WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly designated
15 January 27 as an annual International Day of Commemoration in
16 memory of the victims of the Holocaust; and

17 WHEREAS, The United Nations urges its members to develop
18 educational programs to help prevent future genocides; and

19 WHEREAS, A Holocaust Education Week can be used to spur
20 discussion in schools, communities, and civic organizations

1 throughout Illinois about hate, discrimination, and prejudice
2 and hopefully reduce the number of hate crimes in the State;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we commend the educators who instruct their students on this
7 important topic each year during Holocaust Education Week in
8 the State of Illinois; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That we encourage school districts and local
10 residents to support this week and participate in informed
11 educational events planned to commemorate the occasion.