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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Mahatma Karamchand Gandhi was a world-renowned
3 civil rights and spiritual leader, who experienced injustices
4 early in life and learned to embrace the principles of
5 non-violence as a vehicle for social and political change; and

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WHEREAS, Mahatma Gandhi was influenced by religious
7 teachings in Hinduism, Jainism, and Christianity in the
8 development of his philosophy; and

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WHEREAS, Mahatma Gandhi led the Indian people to
10 independence from British rule in August 1947 through
11 non-violent means, staging massive peaceful demonstrations
12 against poverty while supporting women's rights and religious
13 tolerance; and

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WHEREAS, For his efforts, Mahatma Gandhi was given the
15 title of Mahatma, or "Great Soul" and was often called Bapu in
16 India, which means "father"; India acknowledges him as the
17 "Father of the Nation"; and

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WHEREAS, Mahatma Gandhi's legacy has inspired hundreds of
19 millions of people around the world to pursue non-violence as a
20 means to achieve freedom and equality, including Dr. Martin
21 Luther King Jr.'s movement to end racial injustice in the

1 United States and Nelson Mandela's fight to end apartheid in
2 South Africa; and

3 WHEREAS, Few people have had as significant and as positive
4 an impact on the world and freedom movements than Mohandas
5 Gandhi; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 2,000,000 people attended Mahatma Gandhi's
7 funeral in 1948, and his memory and teachings still persist
8 today; and

9 WHEREAS, October 2, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, was
10 declared as International Day of Non-Violence by the United
11 Nations to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including
12 through education and public awareness" and reaffirm "the
13 universal relevance of the principle of non-violence" and
14 desire "to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, and
15 understanding through non-violence"; and

16 WHEREAS, People around the world commemorate the
17 International Day of Non-Violence by participating in
18 volunteer projects as a way to give back to their communities;
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare Mahatma

1 Gandhi's birthday, October 2, 2019, as the "State Day of Peace
2 to Non-Violence" to coincide with the International Day of
3 Non-Violence; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we encourage the people of Illinois to
5 observe the State Day of Peace to Non-Violence with appropriate
6 ceremonies, programs, and activities.