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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The National Black McDonald's Operators
3 Association is committed to helping African American
4 communities by providing educational resources, promoting
5 tolerance and acceptance, and empowering the people they serve
6 through the state and local chapters of Black McDonald's
7 Operator's Associations; and

8 WHEREAS, The Black McDonald's Operators Association of
9 Chicago and Northwest Indiana is a local chapter of the
10 National Black McDonald's Operators Association; and

11 WHEREAS, The Black McDonald's Operators Association of
12 Chicago and Northwest Indiana participates actively in
13 communities across Cook County, sponsoring back-to-school
14 drives, the longstanding Bud Billiken Parade and Education
15 Resource Scholarship Program, and the BMOA Scholarship for the
16 United Negro College Fund; and

17 WHEREAS, Members of the Black McDonald's Operators
18 Association of Chicago and Northwest Indiana include Akins
19 Akinagbe, Doris Boulrece, Vincent Hale, Derrick Lott, Marvin
20 Spence, Cheryl Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Yolanda Travis, and
21 Tonnette Williams; and

1 WHEREAS, The National Black McDonald's Operators
2 Association encompasses 200+ independent Black franchisees
3 from around the country, many of whom own and operate within
4 the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Some cities in Illinois do not have local
6 chapters of the National Black McDonald's Operators
7 Association; however, those cities have Black owner/operators
8 who uplift their communities; and

9 WHEREAS, McDonald's Owner/Operator Jimmy Williams, a
10 native of East St. Louis, owns and operates over 20 McDonald's
11 restaurants; through his entrepreneurship, he has consistently
12 given back to the East St. Louis community by launching
13 Archways to Opportunity, which provides financial academic
14 assistance for McDonald's employees at all levels, by creating
15 a mentorship program for young people, and by offering
16 countless other donations of his time and talent to the East
17 St. Louis community; and

18 WHEREAS, The meaningful efforts of the Black McDonald's
19 Operators throughout the State of Illinois engage our local
20 neighborhoods and embody the true spirit of family and
21 community; and

22 WHEREAS, On December 21, 1968, Herman Petty of Chicago

1 opened his first restaurant on Chicago's South Side at 6500
2 South Stony Island Avenue, making him the first African
3 American McDonald's franchisee; and

4 WHEREAS, McDonald's partnership with Herman Petty opened
5 the doors and gave hope to a generation of ambitious African
6 American businessmen and women seeking a piece of the American
7 Dream; by the end of 1969, there were 12 African American owned
8 and operated McDonald's restaurants, mostly located in the
9 Midwest; and

10 WHEREAS, The sharing of ideas, problems, and concerns
11 among owner/operators eventually led to the formation of the
12 National Black McDonald's Operators Association in 1972; and

13 WHEREAS, The founding members of the National Black
14 McDonald's Operators Association who attended the first
15 organized convention of the organization in May 1972 presided
16 over by Herman Petty, who had the foresight to see the need for
17 such an organization, were Sherman Claypool of Milwaukee,
18 Wayne Embry of Milwaukee, Andrew Davis of Chicago, John Perry
19 of Chicago, Mallory Jones of St. Louis, Noel White of Chicago,
20 Lester Hairston of Chicago, Cloris Dale of Kansas City, Andrew
21 Murrell of Kansas City, Walter Pitchford of Chicago, Benjamin
22 Davis of St. Louis, and Edward Wimp of Chicago; and

1 WHEREAS, The tenacity and courage of these African
2 American entrepreneurs and pioneers laid the foundation for
3 what has become the most successful group of African American
4 entrepreneurs in the United States today and has paved the way
5 for the National Black McDonald's Operators Association to be
6 partners and leaders, dedicated to providing resources across
7 their communities in an effort to help build stronger
8 neighborhoods; and

9 WHEREAS, In May of 2022, the National Black McDonald's
10 Operators Association will celebrate its 50-year anniversary;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we commend the Illinois operators that are members of the
15 National Black McDonald's Operators Association for their
16 continued service to Illinois' youth and communities; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to the Illinois Operators that are members of the
20 National Black McDonald's Operators Association as a symbol of
21 our respect and esteem.