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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is honoring
3 Alexander Lane, the first African-American male student at
4 Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, who enrolled in 1876;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Historian Pamela Smoot's research on Lane's life
7 began at SIU-Carbondale's Morris Library and included trips to
8 Chicago, Springfield, and Mississippi; the research shows that
9 Lane was born into slavery in pre-Civil War Mississippi and
10 later migrated to Illinois as a young boy, where he was taken
11 in by a southern Illinois farming family who helped assure he
12 had the opportunity to gain an education at what was then
13 Southern Illinois Normal University; and

14 WHEREAS, Alexander Lane served as the first principal of
15 Carbondale's East Side School for Negroes, which later became
16 Attucks School; and

17 WHEREAS, Alexander Lane married the former Isabelle
18 Holland, who also attended SIU-Carbondale, and together they
19 had one son before moving to Chicago in the early 1890s in
20 order to attend Rush Medical College, from which he graduated
21 in 1895; and

1 WHEREAS, Alexander Lane was appointed assistant physician
2 of Cook County and had a private practice at 1937 S. Archer
3 Avenue in Chicago; he entered politics in 1906 by running for
4 and winning a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives as
5 a Republican, where he became the ninth African-American
6 elected to the Illinois General Assembly; he was reelected in
7 1908 and served until his death in November 1911; and

8 WHEREAS, To honor his legacy, the Paul Simon Public Policy
9 Institute has established the Alexander Lane Internship
10 Program to foster civic engagement opportunities for students
11 at Southern Illinois University to work with members of the
12 Illinois General Assembly and the Legislative Black Caucus; and

13 WHEREAS, Alexander Lane was a trailblazer for first
14 generation college students, the disadvantaged,
15 African-Americans in education, medicine, public health,
16 public service, and elected politics, and African-American
17 State legislators; and

18 WHEREAS, The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is hosting
19 a Black History Month event at Rush University Medical Center
20 in Chicago on Monday, February 27, 2012 to honor Alexander Lane
21 and his many accomplishments; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we designate February 27, 2012 as "Alexander Lane Day" in the
3 State of Illinois in honor of the Honorable Dr. Alexander M.
4 Lane and his legacy of high achievement against significant
5 challenges; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Alexander Lane as a symbol of our
8 esteem and respect of their revered ancestor and to the Paul
9 Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University
10 Carbondale in tribute to its dedication to the telling of the
11 Alexander Lane story.