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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the congregation of the
4 Original Providence Baptist Church in Chicago on the occasion
5 of the church's 150th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, The rich history of the Original Providence
7 Baptist Church began in 1863, when a small group of former
8 slaves started holding services at 26 North Irving Avenue in
9 Chicago; within a few years, the founders were joined by other
10 faithful souls who united with them to form a band of nearly
11 300; in time, they were able to raise enough money to purchase
12 a lot and build their first church; the congregation's fruits
13 of their labors became evident, both physically and
14 spiritually, through the efforts of the church's pastors,
15 Thomas L. Johnson, William Belay, R.E. Jackson, B.B. Hillman,
16 John Pope, A. Newsome, A.L. Harris, and Robert Darden; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1911, the congregation of the Original
18 Providence Baptist Church, under the pastorate of the Rev. S.L.
19 Frances, built a larger edifice at 217 North Leavitt at the
20 cost of \$40,000; after Rev. Francis' pastorate ended in 1915,
21 he was succeeded by the Rev. Boston Prince and Rev. J. Wesley
22 Carter, the latter of whom served from 1922 until 1929; from
23 1929 to 1957, the Rev. R. Wendell Phillips served as pastor; in

1 June of 1958, Rev. Edgar T. Thornton took over as pastor,
2 serving until his retirement on June 30, 1996; in February of
3 1999, Rev. James A. Missick began serving as pastor, where he
4 served until December of 2008; on October 18, 2009, Rev.
5 Cleophus J. Lee took leadership of the pulpit of Original
6 Providence Baptist Church, where he continues to serve the
7 church's parishioners today; and

8 WHEREAS, In the last 55 years, the congregation of the
9 Original Providence Baptist Church has grown greatly; the
10 church also relocated numerous times, from Leavitt Street to
11 Jackson Boulevard to Washington Boulevard, before moving to its
12 present location on 515 North Pine Avenue; and

13 WHEREAS, The congregation of the Original Providence
14 Baptist Church serve as models of hard work, integrity, and
15 dedication for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore,
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we congratulate the congregation of the Original Providence
20 Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's 150th
21 anniversary and wish them continued success and happiness in
22 the future; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the Original Providence Baptist Church as a symbol
3 of our esteem and respect.