



HR0377

LRB100 12624 MST 25897 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, From our nation's earliest days, Jewish Americans
3 have been a critical part of our story; in the face of
4 unspeakable discrimination and adversity, they have fought
5 tirelessly to realize their piece of the American dream and the
6 promise of our founding, holding tight to the belief that
7 better days lay ahead; their relentless spirit and remarkable
8 achievements have enriched our country, stirred our
9 conscience, and challenged us to extend the miracles of freedom
10 and security; during the month of May, we honor the vast
11 contributions Jewish Americans have made to our world, and we
12 recommit to standing up for the traditions we believe in and
13 the values we share; and

14 WHEREAS, As we celebrate the rich heritage of the Jewish
15 American community, it is impossible to separate their
16 accomplishments from the struggles of Jewish people around the
17 world; American Jews have worked to strengthen the promise of
18 religious freedom because their ancestors were tested from the
19 moment they came together and professed their faith; today,
20 they continue to teach us empathy and compassion, inspired by
21 the lessons of their parents and grandparents who knew how it
22 felt to be a stranger, and to stand up for a more perfect union
23 for all, relentlessly pursuing tikkun olam because they have
24 always understood that we must recognize ourselves in the

1 struggles of our fellow man; and

2 WHEREAS, This year, Jewish American Heritage Month begins
3 as the world commemorates the 72nd anniversary of the
4 liberation of Dachau by American soldiers, and we are once
5 again reminded that the vibrant culture of the Jewish people
6 has not always been embraced; as tragic events show us all too
7 often, Jewish communities continue to confront hostility and
8 bigotry, including in America; our nation shares an obligation
9 to condemn and combat anti-Semitism and hatred wherever it
10 exists, and we remain committed to standing against the ugly
11 tide of anti-Semitism in all its forms, including in the denial
12 or trivialization of the Holocaust; and

13 WHEREAS, In celebrating the contributions of the Jewish
14 people to the progress of our country, we also reaffirm
15 America's unwavering commitment to the security of the State of
16 Israel and the close bonds between our two nations and our
17 peoples; and

18 WHEREAS, For centuries, Jews have reached for the blessings
19 of freedom and opportunity in the United States; today, as
20 pillars of their families and leaders in their communities,
21 Jewish Americans represent a link in an unbroken chain of
22 perseverance; during Jewish American Heritage Month, we
23 celebrate the hard-fought progress won through struggle and

1 sacrifice, and we rededicate ourselves to building a world
2 where diversity is cherished and faith is protected; therefore,
3 be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 declare May of 2017 as "Jewish American Heritage Month" in the
7 State of Illinois.