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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt was born in Union, South Carolina,  
3 in 1922; she graduated from Spelman College in 1942 and earned  
4 her teaching certificate from the University of Chicago; and

5           WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt began her teaching career in the  
6 Chicago Public Schools, where she served from 1949 to 1969;  
7 while teaching elementary school, she also earned her master's  
8 degree in speech and communication from Northeastern Illinois  
9 University; and

10           WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt served as a professor at the  
11 University of Illinois at Chicago for 22 years; she began her  
12 stint at UIC in September of 1969 as an associate professor of  
13 speech and theatre; in 1971, she was appointed to establish  
14 UIC's Black Studies Program; in 1974, she was appointed to  
15 serve as the first director of the Black Studies Program, where  
16 she remained until 1986; she also organized UIC's first Black  
17 History Month activities and founded the Black History Month  
18 Planning Committee, which she chaired for many years; she  
19 retired from UIC in 1990; and

20           WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt was active in the UIC community  
21 throughout her career and became involved in women's and  
22 African-American issues at the national level; she was well

1 known as a pioneer for promoting the view of Black English as a  
2 dialect of standard English and for developing a black studies  
3 curriculum; and

4 WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt served as a delegate to the White  
5 House Conference on Children; she served as a member of the  
6 Editorial Board of African-American Issues Magazine and the  
7 Constitutional Conference for the National Conference for  
8 Black Studies; she also served as chairperson of the education  
9 task force of the National Council for Negro Women; and

10 WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt's many achievements were honored  
11 by numerous organizations; on the occasion of her retirement in  
12 1990, the University of Illinois at Chicago established the  
13 Grace Holt Scholarship for young people seeking an opportunity  
14 to enter the African-American Studies Program; and

15 WHEREAS, Grace Sims Holt passed away in Chicago in 1991,  
16 leaving behind a legacy of professionalism and dedicated  
17 advocacy for equal opportunity to education; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we honor Grace Sims Holt for her many achievements as an  
21 educator and for serving as an exemplar in the African-American  
22 community and as a source of inspiration during Black History

1 Month; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of Grace Sims Holt as a symbol of our  
4 esteem and respect.