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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was one of America's most beloved and  
3 celebrated comedians, achieving overnight fame and meteoric  
4 success with the 1960 release of his breakthrough comedy  
5 album, The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart; and

6 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was a native of Chicago's Austin  
7 community, spending the first 30 years of his life as an  
8 apartment dweller living near Columbus Park; he was a graduate  
9 of Chicago's St. Ignatius High School and Loyola University  
10 and a generous donor to his alma maters, endowing a theater at  
11 Loyola in his family's name; and

12 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was a star performer at Chicago's  
13 famed Mr. Kelly's nightclub, and his debut album was the  
14 first, and remains the only, comedy album to win the Grammy  
15 Award for Record of the Year, which beat extraordinarily tough  
16 competition, including records by some of the 20th century's  
17 most celebrated recording artists such as Frank Sinatra and  
18 Harry Belafonte; and

19 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was arguably the most successful  
20 sitcom actor in television history, starring in two  
21 long-running, highly-rated programs that aired for an  
22 extraordinary combined 14 years, as well as three other

1 programs; and

2 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart's acclaimed 1970s show, The Bob  
3 Newhart Show, was the first major sitcom set in Chicago and  
4 often referenced area locations and institutions and greatly  
5 enhanced the city's profile nationally during a time when  
6 cities, and Chicago in particular, were struggling; and

7 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was widely considered a genuinely  
8 nice guy in the often cutthroat world of show business and  
9 always projected a Midwest nice sensibility that harkened back  
10 to his Chicago roots; and

11 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was married for 60 years to his wife,  
12 Ginnie, who preceded him in death, and was the father of four  
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was the recipient of numerous  
15 prestigious entertainment awards, including an Emmy Award and  
16 the Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor; and

17 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart was one of Chicago's biggest boosters  
18 in Hollywood and one of the most prominent fans of the Chicago  
19 Cubs; and

20 WHEREAS, Bob Newhart's home on The Bob Newhart Show, the

1 Thorndale Beach South condominium building at 5901 N. Sheridan  
2 Road in Edgewater, is still widely recognized from its  
3 prominence in the program; and

4 WHEREAS, On September 5, 2025, Bob Newhart will be honored  
5 by the City of Chicago with the naming of 5900 to 6000 N  
6 Sheridan Road as an honorary "Bob Newhart Way" in recognition  
7 of his contributions to comedy and television; therefore, be  
8 it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we celebrate the life and legacy of Bob Newhart, one of  
12 America's most beloved and celebrated comedians.