



HR0847

LRB104 21557 ECR 36965 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago is globally revered as the  
3 "Blues Capital of the World", a title earned through a century  
4 of cultural innovation, resilience, and the electrification of  
5 the human spirit; and

6 WHEREAS, The roots of this legacy lie in the Great  
7 Migration, during which approximately six million African  
8 Americans moved from the rural South to the North between 1916  
9 and 1970, bringing the Delta blues to the Near West and South  
10 Sides of Chicago; and

11 WHEREAS, The Chicago blues sound, heard over the  
12 industrial din of a bustling metropolis, began to emerge from  
13 the historic Maxwell Street Market and local rent parties,  
14 characterized by the electric guitar and amplified harmonica,  
15 which eventually gave birth to rock and roll, soul, and R&B  
16 music; and

17 WHEREAS, This musical revolution was anchored by legendary  
18 figures, such as Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Willie Dixon,  
19 Little Walter, Sonny Boy Williamson, and Memphis Minnie, and  
20 it was facilitated by pioneering labels, including Chess  
21 Records at 2120 South Michigan Avenue; and

1 WHEREAS, Eight-time Grammy Award winner and living legend  
2 Buddy Guy recently testified before the Chicago City Council,  
3 noting that while cities such as Nashville, Memphis, and New  
4 Orleans have erected monuments to their musical icons, Chicago  
5 has yet to build a statue or monument worthy of the artists who  
6 made the City a global cultural destination; and

7 WHEREAS, Many blues advocates, including Executive  
8 Director Diamond M. Dixon of Chicago Blues Revival, have been  
9 emphasizing that statues will not matter without a serious  
10 investment in the infrastructure and communities that birthed  
11 the blues genre, calling for a blending of culture and  
12 commerce that allows local neighborhoods to buy in to the  
13 legacy of blues in Chicago; and

14 WHEREAS, The blues remains a living, breathing art form in  
15 venues such as Rosa's Lounge, Kingston Mines, and Buddy Guy's  
16 Legends, where veteran performers, including Bob Stroger and  
17 Willie Buck, share the stage with a new generation of  
18 self-starters and innovators, such as Joey J. Saye and Melody  
19 Angel; and

20 WHEREAS, Programs such as Blues in the Schools, led by  
21 Blues Hall of Fame member Billy Branch, and Fernando Jones'  
22 Blues Camps at Columbia College are essential in teaching the  
23 basics of the blues genre to over 100 children annually,

1 ensuring that music remains a tool for positive expression and  
2 social solidarity; therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
4 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we recognize Chicago's unparalleled history as the "Blues  
6 Capital of the World", and we celebrate the artists, past and  
7 present, who have shaped the soundtrack of our State; and be it  
8 further

9       RESOLVED, That we support the calls for the City of  
10 Chicago to develop permanent, physical monuments and public  
11 art installations beyond existing murals to provide the  
12 reverence and international visibility that Chicago Blues  
13 pioneers deserve; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That we urge for greater community advocacy and  
15 a revival of investment in blues culture and for the State and  
16 local governments to provide substantial support for the  
17 infrastructure that solidifies the legacy of the legendary  
18 blues artists, including the preservation of historic sites  
19 such as Muddy Waters' Kenwood home and support for local Blues  
20 education non-profits; and be it further

21       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
22 presented to Buddy Guy, the Chicago Blues Revival, and the

1 family of the late Willie Dixon as a symbol of our esteem and  
2 respect.