



HR0848

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the legendary George
4 "Buddy" Guy on the momentous occasion of his 90th birthday on
5 July 30, 2026; and

6 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy was born in 1936 to a sharecropping
7 family on the Feduccia family's Three Rivers Landing
8 plantation in Lettsworth, Louisiana, and his journey from
9 humble beginnings to global icon embodies the American spirit;
10 at the age of seven, he fashioned his first guitar from a piece
11 of wood, his mother's hairpins, and screen door wire, a
12 testament to the ingenuity born of necessity; and

13 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy arrived in Chicago on September 25,
14 1957 with only a guitar and the hope of a better life; though
15 he initially faced hunger and hardship, he was soon embraced
16 by the titans of the Windy City blues scene, including Muddy
17 Waters and Otis Rush, eventually becoming a foundational
18 session guitarist for the legendary Chess Records; and

19 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy is a pioneer of the West Side Sound,
20 characterized by high-energy electric riffs, frantic
21 showmanship, and a soul-stirring vocal wail; his innovative
22 use of distortion and feedback, accidentally discovered when a

1 customer's dress brushed against his guitar strings, predated
2 and paved the way for the rock and roll revolution of the
3 1960s; and

4 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy's influence is woven into the very
5 fabric of modern music, serving as a direct inspiration to
6 guitar titans, including Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan,
7 and he was famously declared by far and without a doubt the
8 best guitar player alive; and

9 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy, beyond his musical virtuosity, has
10 been a stalwart guardian of the blues heritage; he enriched
11 the cultural landscape of Chicago by launching the
12 Checkerboard Lounge in 1972 and opening Buddy Guy's Legends in
13 1989, providing a stage for generations of musicians and
14 ensuring that Chicago remains the blues capital of the world;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy has received every conceivable honor in
17 his field, including 8 Grammy Awards, a Lifetime Achievement
18 Grammy, 37 Blues Music Awards, a Kennedy Center Honor, the
19 Presidential National Medal of Arts, and induction into both
20 the Rock and Roll and Blues Halls of Fame; and

21 WHEREAS, Buddy Guy, in fulfilling a final promise to his
22 mentors Muddy Waters and B.B. King to "keep the damn blues

1 alive", has become a living link to an era of American music
2 birthed by Black Americans, a genre that reflects the nation's
3 deepest contradictions, its hard-won progress, and its
4 enduring prosperity; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate Buddy Guy on his 90th birthday, and we commend
8 his unparalleled contributions to the arts, his activism for
9 the preservation of blues history, and his status as a genuine
10 Chicago and American treasure; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Buddy Guy as a symbol of our profound respect and
13 esteem.