



HR0997

LRB104 22610 ECR 39057 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Johnson, Buckner,
4 Hudson, and Wiggins Family Reunion on the occasion of its 70th
5 anniversary and to recognize its remarkable tradition of
6 faith, family, historical preservation, and service; and

7 WHEREAS, The Johnson, Buckner, Hudson, and Wiggins Family
8 Reunion (the Reunion) was founded on July 4, 1956 by family
9 elders who believed that each generation should understand its
10 history, honor its ancestors, and preserve the bonds
11 connecting the family; and

12 WHEREAS, For seven decades, the Reunion has brought
13 together generations of descendants to celebrate their shared
14 heritage, strengthen family relationships, document their
15 genealogy, and ensure that the sacrifices and accomplishments
16 of their ancestors are remembered; and

17 WHEREAS, The Johnson, Buckner, Hudson, and Wiggins family
18 history is rooted in four foundational African American
19 lineages, including Robert Johnson, who was born in Africa in
20 1820 and is remembered for his courage, faith, and devotion to
21 family, Rolly Buckner, who was born in Rankin, Mississippi in
22 1810 and became the matriarch of the Buckner lineage, Charles

1 Hudson, who was born in Tennessee in 1815, and Mariah Ellis,
2 who was born in Maryland in 1811 and whose descendants helped
3 establish the Wiggins lineage; and

4 WHEREAS, The Johnson, Buckner, Hudson, and Wiggins
5 families were united through generations of marriages,
6 beginning with the marriage of the Reverend Clarence Buckner
7 and Julia Johnson in approximately 1901 and continuing through
8 numerous unions that joined the four family lineages into the
9 enduring family celebrated today; and

10 WHEREAS, Pleasant Gift Church served as the spiritual home
11 of the Reunion from 1956 through 1992; the church was founded
12 by the Reverend Clarence Buckner and was later pastored for
13 more than 49 years by his son, the Reverend Robert Buckner; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1992, the family expanded the Reunion into a
15 full weekend gathering in Oak Brook, Illinois, and it has
16 since convened in communities throughout the United States, in
17 Puerto Rico, aboard a family cruise, and through virtual
18 gatherings and socially distanced family celebrations during
19 the COVID-19 pandemic; and

20 WHEREAS, The family has preserved an extensive historical
21 record, including genealogical research, oral histories,
22 church archives, military records, photographs, and other

1 documents connecting present-day descendants to the
2 generations who preceded them; and

3 WHEREAS, The family's commitment to preserving its history
4 and supporting future generations continues through the JBHW
5 Foundation, Inc., which promotes genealogy, education,
6 scholarships, community service, and the preservation of the
7 family's collective legacy; and

8 WHEREAS, The descendants of the Johnson, Buckner, Hudson,
9 and Wiggins family have distinguished themselves as educators,
10 theologians, pharmacists, attorneys, elected officials,
11 mayors, executives, teachers, social workers, public policy
12 advocates, law enforcement officers, members of every branch
13 of the United States Armed Forces, nonprofit leaders, members
14 of the clergy, musicians, entertainers, entrepreneurs,
15 inventors, engineers, scientists, healthcare professionals,
16 and leaders in numerous other fields; and

17 WHEREAS, The achievements of the Johnson, Buckner, Hudson,
18 and Wiggins family reflect generations of perseverance,
19 educational excellence, innovation, servant leadership,
20 spiritual devotion, and commitment to strengthening
21 communities throughout Illinois and across the nation; and

22 WHEREAS, From July 17 through July 19, 2026, descendants

1 from across the country will gather at the Hyatt Regency
2 Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia for the Reunion's platinum
3 anniversary celebration entitled "A Platinum Celebration: 70
4 Years Rooted in History, United in Love"; and

5 WHEREAS, The family's return to the Virginia and
6 Washington, D.C. metropolitan region is especially meaningful
7 due to much of its documented history in the United States
8 beginning in that region; and

9 WHEREAS, Reunion Leader Pamela White Curb, Chief Historian
10 Donald Hudson Sr., and generations of family leaders and
11 volunteers have worked diligently to preserve the Reunion and
12 to ensure that the family's history continues to educate and
13 inspire future generations; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate the Johnson, Buckner, Hudson, and Wiggins
17 Family Reunion on its 70th anniversary, recognize the family's
18 extraordinary commitment to faith, unity, historical
19 preservation, education, and service, and wish its members
20 continued fellowship and success for generations to come; and
21 be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the Johnson, Buckner, Hudson, and Wiggins Family
2 Reunion as an expression of our esteem and admiration.