



SR0128

LRB104 12381 LAW 22621 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Lincoln Colored Home (LCH) of Springfield,  
3 the first Black orphanage in the State of Illinois and the  
4 second Black orphanage in the United States, was founded by  
5 former probation officer and community servant Eva Carroll  
6 Monroe in 1898; and

7 WHEREAS, The LCH, which operated until 1933, was  
8 originally established in response to racial discrimination  
9 towards Black children who were denied access to shelter and  
10 other resources by local orphanages, and as time passed, it  
11 extended its services to also providing shelter for widows;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Prior to opening the LCH, Eva Carroll Monroe  
14 worked tirelessly on behalf of orphaned Black children and  
15 made many sacrifices, including taking children into her own  
16 home and providing for them without the aid of government  
17 assistance, and as a Black woman, she continued to heroically  
18 protect and serve Black children during the harsh times of the  
19 Jim Crow era; and

20 WHEREAS, Eva Carroll Monroe was a dedicated child advocate  
21 and provider, a fearless protector, and a national trailblazer

1 who selfishly dedicated her life to the protection, welfare,  
2 education, and service of Black children and her community,  
3 and her courageous efforts in Illinois were instrumental in  
4 raising standards of child welfare and protection nationwide;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The structure that once housed Eva Carroll  
7 Monroe's LCH, which was placed on the National Register of  
8 Historic Places in 1988 and recently purchased by Route  
9 History Museum, remains the only brick-and-mortar building of  
10 the first two Black orphanages to still exist in the United  
11 States today; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare August 4,  
14 2025 and August 4, 2026 as Eva Carroll Monroe Day in the State  
15 of Illinois to celebrate and honor her achievements and  
16 legacy; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to Dr. Gina Lathan, president of Route History  
19 Museum, as a symbol of our respect and esteem.