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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have been an integral part of
3 the United States since its founding, contributing
4 consistently to the nation's growth, democratic institutions,
5 and shared civic life across generations; and

6 WHEREAS, Members of the Jewish community played meaningful
7 roles in the founding of the United States and have long
8 supported the constitutional ideals of religious liberty,
9 individual rights, and democratic self-governance; and

10 WHEREAS, During the nineteenth and early twentieth
11 centuries, Jewish immigrants from Europe sought refuge in the
12 United States from pogroms and Nazi persecution, establishing
13 enduring Jewish communities throughout the nation, including
14 in Illinois, drawn by America's promise as a place of refuge,
15 freedom, and opportunity; and

16 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have made enduring contributions
17 to the cultural, economic, civic, and intellectual life of the
18 United States and the State of Illinois, including in
19 education, science, business, government, philanthropy, civil
20 rights, labor, and the arts, with notable Jewish Illinoisans
21 including, among many others, Governors Henry Horner, Samuel
22 Shapiro, and J.B. Pritzker, philanthropist Julius Rosenwald,

1 community organizer Hannah G. Solomon, feminist author Betty
2 Friedan, and eight United States Representatives, starting
3 with Julius Goldzier in 1893 followed by Martin Emerich,
4 Adolph J. Sabath, Sydney Yates, Abner J. Mikva, and Rahm
5 Emanuel, to current Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Brad
6 Schneider; and

7 WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have also demonstrated a strong
8 tradition of public service, including honorable service in
9 the Armed Forces of the United States and the Illinois
10 National Guard, defending the freedoms and security of the
11 nation and State; and

12 WHEREAS, The Jewish American community encompasses a wide
13 range of cultural traditions, religious practices, economic
14 circumstances, and political viewpoints, reflecting the
15 diversity and pluralism that define American society; and

16 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month provides an
17 opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments and
18 contributions of Jewish Americans and to recognize the
19 continuing importance of fostering understanding, acceptance,
20 and respect for all cultures and religions; and

21 WHEREAS, Jewish American Heritage Month is observed
22 annually each May to recognize the history, achievements, and

1 enduring legacy of Jewish Americans and to celebrate the vital
2 contributions of Jewish Illinoisans to the State's cultural,
3 economic, civic, and social life; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare May 2026 as
6 Jewish American Heritage Month in the State.