



HR0610

LRB100 14508 MST 29324 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Throughout history, Polish Highlanders have faced numerous hardships; whether it was rugged country, difficult climate, nonproductive soil, or oppressive invaders they persevered, and in doing so, formed a unique culture with a distinct dialect, agropastoral farming practices, architecture, dress, music, cuisine, and mindset; and

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WHEREAS, Polish Highlanders emigrated to Chicago as part of the great Polish emigration; their wide-ranging skills were in high demand in the city's stockyards, and they joined the growing communities that were centered around their local parishes; and

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WHEREAS, With the outbreak of World War I, Polish Highlanders heeded the call to arms and sacrificed blood for freedom and independence; after the war, they returned to participate in the economic boom that took place in America; and

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WHEREAS, During World War II, Polish Highlanders rebelled with the Polish nation and fought the German Nazis as partisan freedom fighters; after the war, the imposition of communism upon Poland was widely rejected and many Highlanders again emigrated to America; and

1           WHEREAS, Polish Highlanders have contributed to the  
2 economy of Illinois in construction, maintenance services,  
3 transportation, education, military, government, religion, and  
4 medicine; and

5           WHEREAS, Polish Highlanders have embraced life in the  
6 Chicago area while maintaining their rich cultural dress,  
7 music, and cuisine; today the community is concentrated in the  
8 southwest metro area of greater Chicagoland and is estimated to  
9 be 100,000 persons strong; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
12 declare October 22, 2017 as "Polish Highlander Day" in the  
13 State of Illinois.