



HR0362

LRB102 18688 ECR 27146 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, May 31 through June 1, 2021 marks 100 years since one of the worst instances of racial violence in American history known as the Tulsa Race Massacre; and

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WHEREAS, The massacre began during Memorial Day weekend after 19-year-old Dick Rowland, a Black shoeshiner, was accused of assaulting Sarah Page, a 17-year-old White elevator operator of the nearby Drexel Building; he was taken into custody, and a mob of hundreds of White men gathered around the jail where Rowland was being kept, determined to lynch him; in response, a group of 75 Black men arrived at the jail in order to protect Rowland, and violence broke out between the two groups; and

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WHEREAS, As news of the confrontation spread across Tulsa, more violence erupted; on the evening of May 31 through the afternoon of June 1, 1921, a violent mob of hundreds of White people attacked Tulsa's Greenwood District; the district was, at that time, the wealthiest Black community in the United States and was referred to as "Black Wall Street"; and

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WHEREAS, The mob destroyed 35 square blocks, burned businesses and an estimated 1,250 homes to the ground, and murdered as many as 300 Black Tulsans; the damage done is

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1 estimated to equal \$27 million in today's dollars; and

2 WHEREAS, Many of the dead were buried in mass graves that  
3 were only recently discovered; approximately 10,000 Black  
4 people were left homeless, and many Black survivors left the  
5 city and never returned; and

6 WHEREAS, A 2001 state commission report found that the  
7 City of Tulsa had conspired with the mob of White citizens,  
8 including deputizing them and giving them weapons; and

9 WHEREAS, The massacre has not been included in many local,  
10 state, and national histories and was widely forgotten until  
11 recent pushes to have the massacre recognized; and

12 WHEREAS, Oklahoma recently passed legislation in order to  
13 establish scholarships for the descendants of survivors,  
14 encourage the economic development of Greenwood, and develop a  
15 park in memory of the victims of the massacre in Tulsa; in  
16 2020, the massacre became a part of the Oklahoma school  
17 curriculum; and

18 WHEREAS, Recently, 107-year-old massacre survivor Viola  
19 Fletcher testified before members of a U.S. House Judiciary  
20 subcommittee and called for justice and for the country to  
21 officially acknowledge the massacre ahead of the 100th

1 anniversary; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we recognize May 31, 2021 through June 1, 2021 as the 100th  
5 anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre.