



HR0696

LRB102 26478 MST 36955 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1979 at age 12, Rafael A. Estrada and his  
3 family fled Nicaragua during the violent civil war to pursue  
4 freedom in America and Galesburg; and

5 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada graduated from Augustana College  
6 in Rock Island with a Bachelor of Arts in Political  
7 Science/International Relations and from North Park University  
8 in Chicago with a Master of Business Administration; while at  
9 Augustana, he met his dear and devoted spouse, Amy Bailie  
10 Estrada; together, they had four wonderful children; and

11 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada would embody the American Dream  
12 and build a successful national and international business  
13 career in finance, real estate, and business management; and

14 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada would give to his local community  
15 in numerous ways, including in service to the Knox County  
16 Sheriff's Auxiliary Police, rising through the ranks of  
17 sergeant, lieutenant, and chief during his volunteer tenure;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada never forgot his birthplace of  
20 Nicaragua and established a foundation, Free and Fair  
21 Inc/Nicaraguans for Security and Prosperity, based in Illinois

1 with remote offices in Texas, Costa Rica, and Spain; and

2 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada's foundation would provide  
3 critical supplies, support, and safety for people oppressed by  
4 the Ortega regime inside Nicaragua and for refugees who fled  
5 under threats of death, torture, and imprisonment; it also  
6 provides help to widows, widowers, and family members of those  
7 killed for their opposition to the government; and

8 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada and his foundation specifically  
9 aid those persecuted for their religious beliefs, for their  
10 political positions, and for being members of the media  
11 exposing corruption and violence against Nicaraguan citizens;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada has testified before U.S. Congress  
14 and the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to bring light to  
15 the human rights abuses, where he was introduced by key  
16 committee member Rep. Darin LaHood of Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, Rafael Estrada has traveled frequently to  
18 Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and Spain to personally help  
19 the oppressed and persecuted, often at great personal risk to  
20 himself and his team; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we express our profound gratitude to Rafael A. Estrada for his  
3 outstanding and continuing humanitarian, philanthropic, and  
4 community service in Illinois and around the world; and be it  
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Rafael Estrada as an expression of our deepest  
8 appreciation and respect.