



HR0968

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar founded the Art of Living in India in 1981, bringing the organization's program to Illinois in 1990; and

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WHEREAS, Since that time, Art of Living programs for the general public have been taught throughout the State of Illinois to increase mental health with practical tools, to manage the mind and negative emotions, and to live in happiness among the general public; and

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WHEREAS, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar is a global ambassador for peace amidst conflict and violence; his work includes helping negotiate a peaceful resolution between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as well as in Ayodhya, India, Sri Lanka, and other locations; and

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WHEREAS, In Chicago, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar started programs for inner city youth, administrators, teachers, and staff that were introduced through the YES! For Schools and the SKY Schools programs at 13 Chicago Public Schools and several suburban schools in 2004; these programs were implemented to reduce violence, increase attendance and scholastic achievement, increase student and staff mental

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1 health, reduce burnout, and increase student feelings of hope
2 for their future as adults; and

3 WHEREAS, The Art of Living Foundation serves society by
4 strengthening the individual, as the very intention of
5 standing up for peace helps direct one's energy toward actions
6 that will bring peace; and

7 WHEREAS, The I Stand for Peace campaign was launched on
8 April 20, 2022 to promote change and strengthen people's
9 commitment to peace; since then, over 1,000,000 people have
10 taken the pledge to stand for peace; and

11 WHEREAS, The I Stand for Peace Summit has been held in 15
12 cities in Europe and North America to provide a sense of hope
13 and relief for those affected by violence, the pandemic, and
14 other challenges; and

15 WHEREAS, The Chicago I Stand for Peace Summit (the Summit)
16 took place on June 26, 2022; it featured distinguished
17 speakers and elected leaders to highlight ways to bring into
18 being peace, harmony, and unity during a time of social
19 unrest; and

20 WHEREAS, During the Summit, attendees worked to address
21 the root causes of violence in Chicago and offer practical

1 solutions in addition to addressing the looming mental health
2 crisis affecting our society; the event reminded attendees
3 about the importance of peace and of providing opportunities
4 for all; and

5 WHEREAS, The Day of Peace represents an annual commitment
6 to peace, prosperity, and the Gandhian principle of
7 non-violence; this day recognizes that the movement towards
8 peace requires an ongoing reaffirmation and commitment to the
9 improved lives of Illinois residents; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we declare May 13, 2022, the birthdate of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi
13 Shankar, as the Day of Peace in the State of Illinois.