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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Rafael "Paloma" Rios on May 7, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rios was born in 1942 in Caguas, Puerto Rico, and lived with his grandparents; in 1959, he moved to the city of Chicago, where he met his wife, Yolanda Rios, whom he married in 1963; they had two children, Rafael and Yvonne; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rios was a contributor to the baseball teams in Humboldt Park for years; he supported all of the teams, from the "Pampers" to the adult teams; he also instituted a teen pageant, which provided a sense of belonging and identity to the young women who participated; and

WHEREAS, He was president of the Puerto Rican Parade from 1981 to 1983 and again from 1998 to 2000; among his many important contributions, he had advocated the electoral process for voting for the president of the Puerto Rican Parade, along with developing the parade festivities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rios was a founding father of El Rincon Community Clinic; he served the Humboldt Park community as an Executive Director for 33 years; he negotiated for this clinic to be a "safe zone", where all in need of treatment were welcomed; and

WHEREAS, He was known as a great leader among the Puerto Rican community and served his community during his entire life; he received many awards throughout the years; recently he was given an Honorary Award from the Logan Square Chamber of Commerce as a renown Latino leader in the community; and

WHEREAS, The passing of Rafael "Paloma" Rios has been

1 deeply felt by many, especially his wife of 41 years, Yolanda;
2 his son, Rafael, and future bride, Lysette Medina; his
3 daughter, Yvonne, and her husband, Jose Carmona; his
4 grandchildren, Shantae, Jose, and Margarita; and his
5 great-grandchild, Steven; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we mourn the passing of Rafael "Paloma" Rios, and we extend our
9 sincere condolences to his family, friends, community, and all
10 who knew and loved him; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to his family as an expression of our sorrow for the
13 passing of their loved one.