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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Oprah Winfrey on the occasion of her show's final season; and

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WHEREAS, Oprah Gail Winfrey was born on January 29, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi; and

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WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey began her broadcasting career at WVOL radio in Nashville while still in high school; at the age of 19, she became the youngest person and the first African-American woman to anchor the news at Nashville's WTVF-TV; and

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WHEREAS, In 1976, Oprah Winfrey moved to Baltimore, Maryland to join WJZ-TV news as a co-anchor of the Six O'Clock News, and in 1978, discovered her talent for hosting talk shows when she became co-host of WJZ-TV's talk show "People Are Talking", while continuing to serve as anchor and news reporter; in January 1984, she moved to Chicago to host WLS-TV's morning talk show "AM Chicago", which became the number one local talk show just one month after she began; in less than a year, the show expanded to one hour and, in September 1985, was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show"; in 1986, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" was syndicated and aired in 107

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1 countries with 23 million viewers; and

2 WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey has impacted the media of  
3 television, publishing, film, philanthropy, education, and  
4 health and fitness; she has also been a boon to the tourism and  
5 hospitality industries in the City of Chicago through the many  
6 people throughout the world who have come to see her show and  
7 the many celebrities she has brought to the City; and

8 WHEREAS, In the television medium, the film medium, and the  
9 print medium, Oprah Winfrey serves as chairperson of HARPO,  
10 Inc., HARPO Productions, Inc.; HARPO Studios Inc., HARPO Films,  
11 Inc., HARPO Print, LLC, and HARPO Video, Inc.; she recently  
12 created her own network, OWN; and

13 WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey has received numerous awards,  
14 including the George Foster Peabody Individual Achievement  
15 Award (1996); the International Radio and Television Society's  
16 "Broadcaster of the Year" Award (1996); Newsweek's "Most  
17 Important Person" in books and media, TV Guide's "Television  
18 Performer of the Year" (1997); Time magazine's "100 Most  
19 Influential People of the 20th Century", the National Academy  
20 of Television Arts and Sciences' Lifetime Achievement Award  
21 (1998); the National Book Foundation's 50th Anniversary Gold  
22 Medal (1999); the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award, Broadcasting &  
23 Cable's Hall of Fame (2002); Association of American Publishers

1 AAP Honors award (2003); National Association of Broadcasters  
2 Distinguished Service Award; and Time Magazine's "100 Most  
3 Influential People in the World" (2004); and

4 WHEREAS, After receiving 39 Daytime Emmy Awards, seven for  
5 Outstanding Host, nine for Outstanding Talk Show, 21 in the  
6 Creative Arts categories, and one for her work as supervising  
7 producer of the ABC After School Special "Shades of Single  
8 Protein", Oprah Winfrey's removed herself from future Emmy  
9 consideration in 1999, and the show followed suit in 2000; and

10 WHEREAS, The City of Chicago named the street where Harpo  
11 Studios resides "Oprah Winfrey Way" in honor of Oprah's  
12 contribution to the City and its residents; and

13 WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey's never-ending philanthropy has  
14 been exemplified by such activities as ChristmasKindness South  
15 Africa 2002; Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls-South  
16 Africa; and the Oprah Winfrey Scholars Program; among her many  
17 ventures that have improved the lives of countless individuals  
18 are Oprah's Angel Network; Oprah's Book Club; the Live Your  
19 Best Life Tour; her service as national spokesperson for "A  
20 Better Chance"; and her service as an advocate for the National  
21 Child Protection Act, which was signed on December 20, 1993 by  
22 President Clinton and declared the "Oprah Bill"; and

1           WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey's final show was as big as her  
2 career; the episode was filmed at the United Center in Chicago  
3 and featured dozens of celebrity guests, including Mayor  
4 Richard M. Daley; and

5           WHEREAS, Oprah Winfrey's ability to reach, encourage, and  
6 effect change and to teach her viewers through her own  
7 experiences have enabled her to become a leader in the world of  
8 entertainment and journalism and an inspiration to countless  
9 millions throughout the world; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we congratulate Oprah Winfrey on the occasion of her show's  
13 final season, thank her for making the State of Illinois her  
14 home, and wish her good luck and continued success in the  
15 future; and be it further

16           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to Oprah Winfrey as an expression of our utmost  
18 respect and esteem.