



HR0067

LRB098 10319 MST 40504 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Delta Sigma Theta
4 Inc. on 100 years of service and the Champaign-Urbana Alumnae
5 Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority as it celebrates 40
6 years of service to the Champaign, Urbana, Danville, and
7 Rantoul communities on December 15, 2013; and

8 WHEREAS, The local centennial celebration and the 40th
9 anniversary of the Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter will take
10 place on March 2, 2013; local programs include Building a
11 Healthy Community One Church at a Time, Delta Growing and
12 Empowering Myself Successfully, Adoption of the University of
13 Illinois Odyssey Project, Empowering Males to Build
14 Opportunities for Empowerment, Domestic Violence Initiatives,
15 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarships, and "We the People"
16 Political Awareness Events; the president of the
17 Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter is Ave M. Blackwell Alvarado;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the 24th National
20 President, Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre, and through the
21 vision of the 22 founders, Delta Theta Sorority continues to
22 impact lives and make a difference in communities around the
23 world, guided by its biennial theme "Delta Sigma Theta-A

1 Sisterhood Called to Serve: Transforming Lives, Impacting
2 Communities"; and

3 WHEREAS, Founded on January 13, 1913, at Howard University,
4 Delta Sigma Theta has become the largest African-American
5 women's organization in the world; 200,000 women are members of
6 more than 1,000 chapters located in the U.S., England, Japan,
7 Germany, the Virgin Islands, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and South
8 Korea; one of the first public acts was their participation in
9 the Women's Suffrage March in Washington, D.C. in March of
10 1913; and

11 WHEREAS, Some notable members of the sorority through the
12 years are Osceola Macarthy Adams, a founding member of Delta
13 Sigma Theta Sorority and the first black actress on Broadway;
14 Sadie T.M. Alexander, the nation's first woman to earn a Ph.D.
15 in economics and one of the founders of the National Bar
16 Association; Barbara Jordan, the first African-American to
17 serve in the U.S. congress from the south since reconstruction
18 and the first black woman to preside over a state senate;
19 Marcia L. Fudge, the 21st National President of Delta Sigma
20 Theta and current chair of the Congressional Black Caucus;
21 Hazel Johnson Brown, the first African-American woman general
22 in the U.S. Army; Julianne Malveaux, the 15th president of
23 Bennett College; Winnie Mandela, the first black social worker
24 in South Africa and former leader of the African National

1 Congress; Tina Allen, sculptor and painter; Selma Burke,
2 sculptor; Alexa Canady, the first black neurosurgeon in the
3 U.S.; Shirley Chisholm, the first black woman member of the
4 U.S. Congress and the first black woman to run as a major party
5 candidate for the presidency of the U.S.; the actress Ruby Dee
6 Davis; Myrlie Evers-Williams, chairman emerita of the board for
7 the NAACP; Frankie M. Freeman, the 14th National President of
8 Delta Sigma Theta and the first woman appointed to the Civil
9 Rights Commission; Patricia Robert Harris, the first black
10 woman to be appointed ambassador to a European country and to
11 be appointed to a presidential cabinet post; Dorothy I. Height,
12 the 10th National President of Delta Sigma Theta and president
13 of the National Council of Negro Women for over 40 years;
14 Alexis Herman, former Secretary of Labor; Darlene Clark Hine,
15 author and the first African-American to become the John A.
16 Hannah of History Endowed Chair at Michigan State University;
17 Elaine R. Jones, the first woman to serve as Director-Council
18 of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the first African-American
19 woman graduate of the University of Virginia Law School; Jewel
20 S. Lafontant, the first American woman to be admitted into the
21 International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the first female
22 Deputy Solicitor General of the U.S.; and Mary Church Terrell,
23 the first African-American chosen to represent the U.S.
24 Congress of Women and to serve on the board of education of a
25 major city; and

1 WHEREAS, Some other well-known members are Melissa Harris
2 Perry of MSNBC, Soledad O'Brien of CNN, Gwen Ifill of PBS,
3 singer Aretha Franklin, actress Cicely Tyson, actress and
4 HIV/AIDS activist Sheryl Lee Ralph, and poet Nikki Giovanni;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Delta Sigma Theta Inc. on 100 years of service
9 and the Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter as it celebrates 40
10 years of service to the Champaign, Urbana, Danville, and
11 Rantoul communities; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the Champaign-Urbana Alumnae Chapter of the Delta
14 Sigma Theta Sorority as an expression of our esteem and
15 respect.