



HR0588

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Diana Nyad on the occasion
4 of being the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without
5 the protection of a shark cage; and

6 WHEREAS, Diana Nyad was born on August 22, 1949 in New York
7 City, New York; after her family moved to Fort Lauderdale,
8 Florida, she began swimming competitively in the 7th grade; in
9 the mid-1960s, she was enrolled at the private Pine Crest
10 School, where she swam under the tutelage of Olympian and Hall
11 of Fame coach Jack Nelson; during this time, she won three
12 Florida State high school championships; after graduating from
13 Pine Crest School in 1967 and briefly attending Emory
14 University, she enrolled at Lake Forest College, where she
15 resumed swimming and started training in distance events; she
16 graduated from Lake Forest College in 1973 with a degree in
17 English and French; and

18 WHEREAS, After college, Diana Nyad began concentrating on
19 distance swimming; in 1979, she swam from the Bimini Islands in
20 the Bahamas to Florida, setting a distance record for non-stop
21 swimming without a wetsuit that still stands today; she also
22 broke many world records during this time, including the
23 women's record of 8 hours, 11 minutes in the 22-mile Bay of

1 Naples race in 1974; in 1975, she made national headlines by
2 swimming 28 miles around the island of Manhattan in 7 hours and
3 57 minutes, breaking the 45-year-old record; in 1979, she set a
4 world record for distance swimming over open water by swimming
5 102 miles from North Bimini Island, Bahamas, to Juno Beach,
6 Florida without the use of a protective shark cage, completing
7 the swim in 27 hours and 30 minutes; and

8 WHEREAS, By January of 2010, Diana Nyad was determined to
9 begin training for a summer attempt to swim from Cuba to
10 Florida. Taking up residence in the Caribbean island of St.
11 Maarten, from January through June she began doing 8-, 10-,
12 12-, and 14-hour swims every other week; on July 10, 2010, at
13 the age of 60, she began open water training for a 60-hour,
14 103-mile swim from Cuba to Florida; a combination of adverse
15 weather conditions and jellyfish stings prevented her from
16 completing attempts in August and September of 2011, but Diana
17 Nyad would not be deterred; after another attempt in August of
18 2012 was thwarted by jellyfish stings, she decided to wear a
19 silicone mask, a full bodysuit, gloves, and booties for
20 protection; and

21 WHEREAS, On the morning of August 31, 2013, Diana Nyad
22 began her fifth bid to swim from Havana, Cuba to Florida, a
23 distance of about 110 miles, without a shark cage; before
24 reaching Florida, she broke a 2012 distance record for the Cuba

1 to Florida swim, putting Nyad closer to Key West than anyone
2 swimming without a shark cage; at approximately 12:55 PM
3 Central Time on September 2, 2013, she reached the beach in Key
4 West, about 53 hours after she began her journey; and

5 WHEREAS, Diana Nyad serves as a model of hard work,
6 courage, and determination for the people of the State of
7 Illinois; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate Diana Nyad on the occasion of being the first
11 person to swim from Cuba to Florida without the protection of a
12 shark cage and wish her continued success and happiness in her
13 future endeavors; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Diana Nyad as a symbol of our esteem and respect.