



HR1294

LRB099 22026 GRL 49242 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to celebrate the Louis Vuitton America's
4 Cup World Series Chicago, June 10-12, 2016, with Lake Michigan
5 serving as the first freshwater venue to host America's Cup
6 racing in the event's 165-year history; and

7 WHEREAS, The Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series
8 Chicago is a qualifying event for the 2017 America's Cup Finals
9 in Bermuda; and

10 WHEREAS, Navy Pier, celebrating its centennial this year,
11 will serve as event headquarters as the high-performance
12 45-foot foiling catamarans sail by at over 40 miles per hour
13 close to the shore; and

14 WHEREAS, This historic event also includes the Endeavour
15 Program, which introduces children to sailing through
16 education and getting out on the water, which, for many of the
17 participating children, will be their first experience with
18 Lake Michigan; and

19 WHEREAS, The history of the America's Cup is rich in
20 tradition and excellence, distinguishing it from among the
21 great competitions of sport throughout the world; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1851, a radical looking schooner ghosted out of
2 the afternoon mist and swiftly sailed past the Royal Yacht
3 stationed in the Solent, between the Isle of Wight and the
4 south coast of England, on an afternoon when Queen Victoria was
5 watching a sailing race; and

6 WHEREAS, As the schooner, named "America", passed the Royal
7 Yacht in first position, and saluted by dipping its ensign
8 three times, Queen Victoria asked one of her attendants who was
9 in second place; "Your Majesty, there is no second", came the
10 reply; and

11 WHEREAS, That phrase, just four words, is still the best
12 description of the America's Cup and how it represents the
13 singular pursuit of excellence; and

14 WHEREAS, That day in August of 1851, the yacht "America",
15 representing the young New York Yacht Club, would go on to beat
16 the best that the British could offer and win the Royal Yacht
17 Squadron's 100 Pound Cup; this was more than a simple boat
18 race, as it symbolized a great victory for the New World over
19 the Old, a triumph that unseated Great Britain as the world's
20 undisputed maritime power; and

21 WHEREAS, The trophy would go to the young republic of the

1 United States and it would be well over 100 years before it was
2 taken away from New York; and

3 WHEREAS, Shortly after "America" won the 100 Guinea Cup in
4 1851, New York Yacht Club Commodore John Cox Stevens and the
5 rest of his ownership syndicate sold the celebrated schooner
6 and returned home to New York as heroes; they donated the
7 trophy to the New York Yacht Club under a Deed of Gift, which
8 stated that the trophy was to be "A perpetual challenge cup for
9 friendly competition between nations"; thus was born the
10 America's Cup, named after the winning schooner; and

11 WHEREAS, The America's Cup is without a doubt the most
12 difficult trophy in sport to win; in the more than 150 years
13 since that first race off the English shore, only four nations
14 have won what is often called the "Oldest trophy in
15 international sport"; and

16 WHEREAS, We wish to thank Louis Vuitton America's Cup World
17 Series Chicago event chairman, Don Wilson, and director, Tod
18 Reynolds, for bringing this event to Chicago for the first time
19 in its history; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
22 congratulate the participants and organizers of the Louis

1 Vuitton America's Cup World Series Chicago and celebrate the
2 historic nature of this event for the City of Chicago and the
3 State of Illinois; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 presented to Don Wilson and Tod Reynolds as a symbol of our
6 esteem and appreciation.