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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The month of May first commemorated Asian
3 American and Pacific Islander heritage in 1979 and has been
4 celebrated as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month since
5 1990; this commemoration uplifts the stories of more than 50
6 distinct ethnic groups and more than 100 languages that
7 comprise Asian American and Pacific Islander communities; and

8 WHEREAS, The month of May was chosen to commemorate Asian
9 American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month to mark the first
10 arrival of Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the
11 completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869
12 through the incredible effort of mostly Chinese immigrant
13 workers; and

14 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to more than 905,000 Asian
15 Americans and Pacific Islanders, according to the most recent
16 American Community Survey data available from the U.S. Census
17 Bureau; the five largest communities represented are Indian
18 Americans, Filipino Americans, Chinese Americans, Korean
19 Americans, and Pakistani Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, Through immigration and refugee resettlement and
21 as multi-generational families, Asian Americans and Pacific
22 Islanders have taken many pathways to call Illinois home; and

1 WHEREAS, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders comprise
2 the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the country, and
3 Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are vital
4 parts of communities across Illinois in cities, suburbs, and
5 rural areas of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, The history of Asian Americans and Pacific
7 Islanders is deeply intertwined in the history of the United
8 States and is often fraught with discrimination, exclusion,
9 and violence; despite these and other challenges, Asian
10 American and Pacific Islander communities continue to arise;
11 they have been a vital part of the development of Illinois and
12 of the United States in every facet of public life and in the
13 advancement of civil rights; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
16 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we declare May of 2024 as Asian
17 American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month in honor of the
18 contributions made by the Asian American and Pacific Island
19 residents and communities across Illinois.