



HR0596

LRB101 15217 MST 64381 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb on December 10, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, The historic Egyptian Theatre was constructed in 1929, serving as a marvelous illustration of Art Deco architecture inspired by the then-recent discovery of King Tut's tomb; the theatre was designed by the famed architectural firm Rapp & Rapp, who reigned among the most prolific theatre design firms in the nation; the invention and manufacture of barbed wire fencing generated a period of great economic prosperity for the people of DeKalb, helping to facilitate the theatre's creation; and

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WHEREAS, Mere weeks after the infamous stock market crash of 1929, the Egyptian Theatre officially opened on December 10, 1929; the theatre served as a venue for vaudeville entertainment, additionally featuring movies for attendees to enjoy; ever since, the theatre has become ingrained within the entertainment industry for its world-class performances and has established itself as a staple of Illinois' culture; and

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WHEREAS, With holes in the roof, flooding, and rampant deterioration of its classic murals and ornaments, the Egyptian

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1 Theatre was in a state of disrepair through the late 1970s; in  
2 1978, the theatre was at risk of demolition due to the  
3 deteriorating condition of the historic building; in response,  
4 a group of dedicated volunteers formed the Preservation of the  
5 Egyptian Theatre (P.E.T.) on March 1, 1978; just nine months  
6 later, the building was listed on the National Register of  
7 Historic Places by the United States Department of the  
8 Interior; a renovation overhaul ensued, helping to reassert the  
9 reputation of the theatre; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout its 90 years of existence, the Egyptian  
11 Theatre has garnered the attention of entertainment seekers  
12 worldwide; the theatre has welcomed numerous historical  
13 figures, including Jerry Colonna, Lawrence Welk, Ray Charles,  
14 George Winston, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Dizzy Gillespie,  
15 Ramsey Lewis, Wynton and Branford Marsalis, Stan Getz, Woody  
16 Herman, Jay Leno, and John Austin; on October 25, 1959,  
17 then-presidential candidate John F. Kennedy made a campaign  
18 stop at the theatre while touring Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Providing both time and labor, P.E.T. volunteers  
20 continue to dedicate themselves to the preservation of the  
21 Egyptian Theatre; through P.E.T., the theatre continues to  
22 thrive as the entertainment pride of the City of DeKalb and  
23 remains an economic driver for DeKalb businesses; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2018 the State of Illinois Office of Tourism  
2 listed the Egyptian Theatre in the Top 20 Architectural  
3 Treasures in Illinois, largely thanks to P.E.T.'s continued  
4 dedication; and

5           WHEREAS, Since opening its doors in 1929, the Egyptian  
6 Theatre continues to deliver first-class entertainment to the  
7 people of Illinois; its iconic architecture, excellence in  
8 entertainment, and cultural prevalence are substantial  
9 contributions to the City of DeKalb and State of Illinois;  
10 therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we congratulate the members, volunteers, and patrons of The  
14 Preservation of the Egyptian Theatre on the occasion of the  
15 Egyptian Theatre's 90th anniversary, and we wish them continued  
16 success in preserving this historic icon for the enjoyment of  
17 present and future generations; and be it further

18           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the P.E.T. Board of Directors as a symbol of our  
20 esteem and respect.