



HR0273

LRB102 18335 MST 26103 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the DeKalb Stage Coach
4 Players on the occasion of the organization's 75th anniversary
5 in 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, The Stage Coach Players first performed in 1947
7 at the Masonic Temple in DeKalb; the group moved into the
8 Ellwood family's barn loft at Ilehamwood Farm for their next
9 show, Arsenic and Old Lace, in the summer of 1947 and performed
10 in that space until the fall of 1949 when the Ellwoods needed
11 to use the barn; in addition, May Ellwood sold the box office,
12 the actual stagecoach she had been letting them use, to the
13 Harold Warp Pioneer Village Museum in Minden, Nebraska; and

14 WHEREAS, From 1950 through 1952, the Stage Coach Players
15 performed at a variety of locations, including DeKalb High
16 School and the all-purpose rooms of DeKalb grade schools; for
17 the play The Trial of Mary Dugan, director Ann Eddy Gray
18 negotiated the use of a court room at the DeKalb County Court
19 House; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1953, the Stage Coach Players moved into a
21 permanent modular metal building acquired from the DeKalb
22 County Board that had been part of the DeKalb County Farm; and

1 WHEREAS, The first play in the new building was George
2 Bernard Shaw's Androcles and the Lion, directed fittingly by
3 Ann Eddy Gray, the director of the first production in the
4 Masonic Temple; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1961, the theater used by the Stage Coach
6 Players was damaged by water after a well was dug; and

7 WHEREAS, Though it was not officially an open-air theater,
8 the space did not have heat or air conditioning, so it was only
9 available for use when the weather was not freezing, limiting
10 performance time in Northern Illinois; and

11 WHEREAS, The Stage Coach Players acquired their current
12 space at 126 S. Fifth St. in DeKalb in 2001; and

13 WHEREAS, Prior to being the theater for the Stage Coach
14 Players, the building served as the Moose Hall and, for the 30
15 years prior to their acquisition, the Church of Christ; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the last few decades, the Stage Coach
17 Players community theater organization has also offered
18 workshops for theater training, which have included
19 behind-the-scenes technical training, artistic training, and
20 workshops for both children and adults; and

1 WHEREAS, The Stage Coach Players organization has
2 collaborated with other entertainment ventures over the
3 decades, including partnering with The Egyptian Theatre for
4 large productions, most recently Disney's The Little Mermaid
5 in 2019; and

6 WHEREAS, Every October, the Stage Coach Players
7 organization participates in Sycamore's Pumpkin Parade, and
8 each December during the Stage Coach Players Christmas
9 production, it collects toys to donate to the United States
10 Marines' Toys for Tots program; and

11 WHEREAS, The Stage Coach Players organization has been
12 incredibly active in the community during the COVID-19
13 pandemic; and

14 WHEREAS, Along with many virtual entertainment pieces and
15 interactive virtual games, the Stage Coach Players
16 organization has been collecting food and personal care items
17 for local food banks and giving away fabric for mask making
18 and, when available, completed masks; and

19 WHEREAS, Starting in November 2020, the Stage Coach
20 Players partnered with the Salvation Army to create food boxes
21 for Thanksgiving, distributing and collecting wish-list items

1 from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program, and, once again,
2 partnering with the United States Marines to collect toys for
3 the Toys for Tots program; and

4 WHEREAS, In March 2021, the Stage Coach Players partnered
5 with Safe Passage, DeKalb County's only Domestic Violence and
6 Sexual Assault Crisis Center, bringing them donated items such
7 as toiletries, personal care items, diapers, and new clothing;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In April 2021, the Stage Coach Players partnered
10 with Humans For Hope to help bring food and clothing to the
11 homeless in the Chicagoland area; and

12 WHEREAS, In May 2021, the Stage Coach Players partnered
13 with the Paralysis Recovery Foundation to collect gently used
14 shoes for developing countries; and

15 WHEREAS, The Stage Coach Players organization will finally
16 open its doors and invite patrons to come into the theater to
17 see a live production onstage, Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy
18 Dean, Jimmy Dean, for the first time since the COVID-19
19 pandemic began and will once again partner with The Egyptian
20 Theatre with their production of the family holiday classic,
21 Elf The Musical; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate the Stage Coach Players organization on the
4 occasion of their 75th anniversary, offer thanks for the
5 organization's years of service, and wish the organization
6 continued success in the future; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the Stage Coach Players as a symbol of our esteem
9 and respect.