

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of  
3 the State of Illinois wish to recognize milestone dates in  
4 the history of towns in the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Gillespie, Illinois is celebrating its 150th  
6 anniversary this year; and

7 WHEREAS, Gillespie is located in the southeastern section  
8 of Macoupin County and lies midway between St. Louis and  
9 Springfield; it was surveyed in the spring of 1853 by a  
10 gentleman named J.B. Meads from Edwardsville; and

11 WHEREAS, Townships in and around Gillespie include  
12 Cahokia, Brushy, Mound, Dorchester, Hilyard, and Gillespie;  
13 it is from Gillespie Township that the struggling little  
14 village in Macoupin County received its name in the year  
15 1853; and

16 WHEREAS, The township had been called Gillespie by the  
17 managers of the Indianapolis and St. Louis railroad (later  
18 the Big Four Railroad) in honor of Judge Joseph Gillespie,  
19 who was responsible for the railroads passing through this  
20 town; the towns-people thought him worthy of having the  
21 community named for him, so it seemed only reasonable that he  
22 receive the honor of having the town called Gillespie; and

23 WHEREAS, Jackson Sisson of Virginia moved to a farm in  
24 Gillespie in 1837; although he was not the first settler, it  
25 was near his farm that the town of Gillespie was later built;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, First settlers of the town and township  
28 immediately surrounding Gillespie hailed from Ohio, Virginia,  
29 Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Hampshire,  
30 and the Carolinas; the first pioneers included Abraham  
31 Huddleston in 1828, with Alexander Miller, Dennis Dages, and

1 Mrs. McCafle, Aaron and Gabriel Maxwell, James Robinson, and  
2 their families, later following suit; and

3 WHEREAS, The first building built in Gillespie was  
4 erected by B.F. Clark; the lower floor was used as a  
5 store-room and the upper half as a dwelling; Mr. Giles Adams  
6 became Gillespie's first postmaster, and he kept the mail in  
7 his private home until 1854, when the post office was moved  
8 into Clark's store; the postmaster thereafter was Thomas  
9 Chandler; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1835, classes were held in Gillespie's first  
11 school, a log cabin, by Alexander Walls and Mr. More; and

12 WHEREAS, The town was now growing with a railroad running  
13 through, and a post office; in 1856 the National hotel was  
14 built; it consisted of a frame building owned by S.D. Martin;  
15 a mill was erected in 1859 by Settlemire, Rankin and Holmes;  
16 Dr. Isaac Osborn had set up a practice in 1855 and schools,  
17 blacksmith shops, taverns, etc. were now going up and  
18 Gillespie was well on its way to becoming a city; and

19 WHEREAS, On May 2, 1907, Gillespie officially became a  
20 city with Richard H. Isaacs as the first mayor; and

21 WHEREAS, This was the town that had taken the name of a  
22 man who did not settle it, or ever live in it, Judge Joseph  
23 Gillespie; nonetheless, Gillespie has grown and flourished  
24 during the past 150 years into a town that thrives on its  
25 rich history and promising future; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
27 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
28 we congratulate the city of Gillespie on the celebration of  
29 its 150th anniversary; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
31 presented to Daniel Fischer, Mayor of the city of Gillespie.