



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize the musical group, the Dells,  
4 on their induction into the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame on March  
5 15, 2004; and

6 WHEREAS, The Dells are the "granddaddies" of Rhythm and  
7 Blues harmony; they are the group many others have attempted to  
8 emulate but none have surpassed; and

9 WHEREAS, Initially known as the El-Rays, the group was  
10 formed in 1952 at Thornton Township High School in Harvey,  
11 Illinois; they have maintained unchanging personnel for the  
12 past 39 years: lead baritone Marvin Junior, lead tenor Johnny  
13 Carter, second tenor Verne Allison, baritone Michael McGill,  
14 and bass Chuck Barksdale; from Carter's chirping highs to  
15 Barksdale's resonant lows, the Chicago-based quintet continues  
16 to set the standard for top-to-bottom male harmony, and  
17 Junior's robust voice remains among the most powerful and  
18 urgent instruments in the annals of soul music; and

19 WHEREAS, Between 1956 and 1992, the Dells had a total of 46  
20 hits on Billboard's R&B singles chart, including such classics  
21 as "Oh, What a Night," "Stay in My Corner," "Always Together,"  
22 and "Give Your Baby a Standing Ovation"; they have their first  
23 new album in eight years, Reminiscing, on Volt Records, a  
24 division of Fantasy, Inc., with a current artist roster that  
25 boasts such other old school soul greats as the Delfonics, the  
26 Dramatics, and Brenda Holloway; and

27 WHEREAS, Today, 50 years after their inception, the Dells  
28 continue to headline concert halls and nightclubs around the  
29 globe; and

30 WHEREAS, The Nineteenth Annual Induction Ceremony will be

1 held on March 15, 2004, in New York at the Waldorf Astoria  
2 Hotel; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 congratulate the Dells on their many successes as a group and  
6 on their induction into the Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
9 presented to each member of the Dells as a token of our respect  
10 and esteem.