



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Decatur Police Department celebrates the  
3 150th anniversary of its founding on January 7, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, Officers will wear a specially designed  
5 commemorative 150th anniversary badge during the year of 2006;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The first city marshal was elected to office  
8 January 7, 1856; the marshal was the sole law enforcement  
9 officer for the city until the mid-1860s, when a deputy marshal  
10 was elected to assist him; by 1876, the police department  
11 consisted of the marshal, a deputy marshal, and 5 officers; by  
12 1882, the city marshal and deputy marshal were no longer  
13 elected officials, but appointed by the mayor; the title of  
14 city marshal disappeared in the late 1890s and was replaced  
15 with the title of chief of police; by 1900, Decatur had 12  
16 sworn officers; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1960, the police chief formed the first formal  
18 detective bureau for the police department and the civil  
19 service rank of detective was created; and

20 WHEREAS, The police department was located in the county  
21 courthouse on the southeast corner of Water and Wood Streets  
22 until 1927, when it moved into a building across the street on  
23 the northwest corner of Water and Washington; in 1939, when the  
24 present county courthouse was constructed in the 200 block of  
25 East Wood, the police department moved back in; in 1964, the  
26 police department moved into the city's municipal building  
27 located at 707 East Wood; in 1989, the police department moved  
28 into the newly constructed Law Enforcement Center in the 300  
29 block of South Franklin; and

30 WHEREAS, As of this time, the Decatur Police Department has

1 a force of 164 sworn officers, including 102 patrol officers,  
2 36 detectives, 17 sergeants, 5 lieutenants, 3 deputy chiefs,  
3 and a police chief; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we congratulate the Decatur Police Department on the occasion  
7 of its 150th anniversary and express our sincerest best wishes  
8 for the future; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the Decatur Police Department as an expression of  
11 our admiration and esteem.