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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Assembly Hall was
3 opened on March 2, 1963, born out of the need for a single
4 arena that could seat an entire university class; the hall was
5 designed by renowned architect Max Abramovitz and cost \$8.7
6 million to construct; and

7 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Assembly Hall was
8 constructed entirely of poured concrete; the dome is just 3 1/2
9 inches thick, but its steep folds and light-weight aggregate
10 combine to give it tremendous strength; the hall "floats"
11 thanks to 614 miles of steel wire very tightly wrapped around
12 the edge of the dome; and

13 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Assembly Hall is the
14 largest venue in Illinois outside of the Chicago United Center;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Assembly Hall has
17 hosted countless performers and events, including the Rolling
18 Stones, Garth Brooks, Elvis Presley, U2, Frank Sinatra, "Les
19 Miserables", Bob Hope, Whitney Houston, Mikhail Baryshnikov,
20 Aerosmith, Cher, Tina Turner, "Cats", Bill Cosby, the
21 University of Illinois Commencement, the Harlem Globetrotters,
22 Bruce Springsteen, and "Sesame Street Live!"; and

1 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Assembly Hall has
2 hosted Big Ten Championship basketball teams in 1963, 1984,
3 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005 for the men, and 1997 for the
4 women; and

5 WHEREAS, 25 Fighting Illini men's teams and 8 women's teams
6 that have played in the Assembly Hall advanced to NCAA
7 Tournament play in the last 50 years; 2 NCAA Final Four men's
8 teams called the Assembly Hall home in 1989 and 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, The Assembly Hall hosted the Illinois High School
10 Association State Boys Basketball Tournament from 1963 to 1995,
11 the IHSA State Girls Basketball Tournament from 1978 to 1990,
12 and the IHSA State Wrestling Championships from 1967 to the
13 present; the Assembly Hall has also hosted Big Ten and NCAA
14 Championship events in wrestling and gymnastics; and

15 WHEREAS, Home attendance at the Assembly Hall for men's
16 basketball ranks in the Top 25 nationally for 33 straight
17 seasons; average home attendance at Assembly Hall for men's
18 basketball has averaged 16,000 fans over the last 11 seasons;
19 the Assembly Hall has enjoyed sold-out crowds (16,618) 125
20 times in the last 11 seasons; and

21 WHEREAS, The University of Illinois Assembly Hall serves as

1 both a part of the rich history of the University of Illinois
2 and as an architectural marvel of this State; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we congratulate the staff and administration of the University
6 of Illinois on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the
7 university's Assembly Hall; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the University of Illinois as a symbol of our
10 esteem and respect.