



HR1310

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, For 160 years, the DeKalb Municipal Band has
3 entertained the DeKalb community; the band holds the
4 distinction of being the oldest continuous playing band in
5 Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, A group of musicians returning from the California
7 gold fields in 1854 formed the DeKalb Silver Comet Band; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, many of the Band's musicians
9 joined the military, but when they returned to DeKalb, they
10 resumed the Band under the leadership of David and Daniel
11 McCosh; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1903, the Band accepted an invitation to become
13 the band of the Third Regiment of the Illinois National Guard,
14 a post the Band held until 1917; during this period, C.F.
15 Toenniges served as director as the Band performed at Huntley
16 Park and occasionally at Liberty Park and Unity Park; and

17 WHEREAS, In the "Roaring Twenties", C.H. Palmer, manager of
18 the Band, kept the Band from bankruptcy by raising money to
19 support the band through fundraisers and contributions from
20 local businesses; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1925, C.H. Palmer took the initiative to lobby
2 the General Assembly to create a municipal band tax, which
3 passed into law in 1926; DeKalb became the first community to
4 take advantage of the taxing authority; and

5 WHEREAS, During the 1930s, Hopkins Park was built in DeKalb
6 with the help of the Works Projects Administration and the band
7 moved its weekly concerts from neighborhood parks to Hopkins
8 Park, where it remains today; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1948, Dee Palmer, son of C.H. Palmer, assumed
10 the directorship of the Band and held regular Tuesday evening
11 concerts from June through mid-August; Dee served as director
12 for 63 years; in appreciation of his service, the band shell
13 was renamed the Dee Palmer Band Shell in the 1980s and a bronze
14 statue of him directing the band was erected in 2010; and

15 WHEREAS, The DeKalb Municipal Band consists of 60 local
16 residents, school teachers, college music majors, former
17 members of United States Military Bands, and several
18 professional musicians; the Band has been under the leadership
19 of only 4 directors from the community, 3 of them from the
20 Palmer family and the current Director, Kirk Lundbeck, who has
21 been a member of the Band for 35 years; and

22 WHEREAS, The DeKalb Municipal Band has created a reason for

1 the people of DeKalb to gather to enjoy each other's company,
2 the summer evenings, and the joyous sounds of the band; and

3 WHEREAS, The DeKalb Municipal Band plans to present a gala
4 holiday concert on December 13, 2014 in honor of its 160th
5 season and the continuous support of the DeKalb community;
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate the members of the DeKalb Municipal Band on
10 their long standing tradition of entertainment and the Band's
11 status as the oldest continuous playing band in the State of
12 Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to the City of DeKalb and the DeKalb Municipal Band
15 as a symbol of our esteem and respect.