



HR1280

LRB099 21962 MST 48981 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize the 90th anniversary of the  
4 Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet; and

5 WHEREAS, The Rialto Square Theatre, the "Jewel of Joliet",  
6 opened on May 24, 1926 as a vaudeville and silent movie palace;  
7 it was built by the Ruben brothers in under two and a half  
8 years at a cost of approximately \$3 million dollars; and

9 WHEREAS, Seven different styles of architecture are  
10 incorporated into the Rialto: Italian Renaissance, Greek,  
11 Roman, Byzantine, Rococo, Venetian, and Baroque; the  
12 architects were brothers, C.W. and George Rapp, who designed  
13 the Chicago, State, Lake, Oriental, Paradise, Granada, Tivoli,  
14 and Uptown Theaters, the Trianon Ballroom, and the Paramount  
15 Arts Center, in Aurora; the sculptor was Eugene Romeo, who also  
16 designed the facade of the Civic Opera House and did the  
17 sculpturing on the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, the  
18 Merchandise Mart, the Wrigley Building, Soldier Field, and  
19 Marshall Field's flagship store; and

20 WHEREAS, A restored Rialto Square Theatre opened on  
21 November 27, 1981 after one and a half years of work at a cost  
22 of \$7 million dollars; and

1           WHEREAS, For the past three decades, the Rialto Square  
2 Theatre has served as a foundation for the economic  
3 revitalization of downtown Joliet and has hosted tens of  
4 thousands of people annually who enjoy attending the events and  
5 performances held there; and

6           WHEREAS, The Rialto Square Theatre has over 250 volunteers  
7 known as the Penguins due to their black and white uniforms;  
8 they serve as ushers, ticket takers, program passers, and  
9 perform numerous other duties; they staff the theatre for all  
10 events and sometimes perform clerical duties and conduct  
11 fundraisers; since 1988, the Penguins have raised over \$750,000  
12 dollars; and

13           WHEREAS, The staff of the Rialto Square Theatre has planned  
14 special programs, activities, and tours for all to enjoy to  
15 celebrate the anniversary and look toward the future;  
16 therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
19 recognize the 90th anniversary of the Rialto Square Theatre and  
20 wish it many more successful years; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the staff of the Rialto Square Theatre as an  
2 expression of our esteem and respect.