

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize organizations in the
4 State of Illinois that have made valuable contributions in
5 ministry to their community; and

6 WHEREAS, The Blaine Street Full Gospel Baptist Church
7 began its ministry as the Blaine Street Christian Center in
8 April 1979 under the pastorate of Reverend Herschel Hannah,
9 who founded the ministry, and led the congregation until
10 1988; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1988 Pastor Hannah left to pursue other
12 opportunities and was replaced by Interim Pastor Lonnie
13 Edwards; by June 1988, the Blaine Street Congregation named
14 John Senter as their new Pastor, who served the congregation
15 until 1994; and

16 WHEREAS, In March 1995, Reverend Timothy E. Criss
17 received the tremendous responsibility of accepting the
18 pastorate; since becoming the pastor at Blaine Street Full
19 Gospel Baptist Church, he has led a mission of illustrating
20 the love and compassion of Christ for the community by
21 providing distinctive human care services, which has resulted
22 in the improvement, stabilization, family strengthening and
23 self-empowerment of members of the Blaine Street
24 congregation;

25 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Reverend Criss, the
26 congregation has grown from fifty members to its current
27 population of over seven hundred members; and

28 WHEREAS, Due to this growth, the Blaine Street Full
29 Gospel Baptist Church has purchased a larger location to
30 accommodate the growth and provide additional room for
31 expansion; and

1 WHEREAS, The Blaine Street Full Gospel Baptist Church
2 congregation has decided not only to change its location, but
3 also to change its name from the Blaine Street Full Gospel
4 Baptist Church to the "City of Refuge Worship Center" as the
5 members stretch their ministry to be the "ministry in the
6 heart of the city, with the city in its heart"; therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate the members of the City of Refuge Worship
11 Center, formerly known as the Blaine Street Full Gospel
12 Baptist Church, for their dedicated service to their
13 community and wish them well at their new location; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the Reverend Timothy E. Criss as an expression
17 of our esteem.