



HR0396

LRB100 12747 MST 26254 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize the City of Watseka on the
4 occasion of the 150th anniversary of its founding; and

5 WHEREAS, Watseka was founded in 1867 and is located in
6 north central Illinois, 24 miles from the border between
7 Illinois and Indiana; and

8 WHEREAS, Watseka is the county seat of Iroquois County
9 which is composed of 26 townships; and

10 WHEREAS, The name Watseka derives from the Potawatomi name
11 "Watch-e-kee", "Daughter of the Evening Star", who was the wife
12 of early eastern Illinois settler, Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Old Iroquois County Courthouse was
15 constructed in 1866, with two additions built in 1881 and 1927;
16 in the early 1960s, an Iroquois County resident, Katherine
17 Clifton, bequeathed to the county in her will a large sum of
18 money and a site upon which to build a new courthouse which is
19 the only courthouse in the United States built entirely with
20 private funds; and

1 WHEREAS, The Old Iroquois County Courthouse was advertised
2 for sale and fell into disuse by 1967; during the Centennial
3 Celebration of Watseka, the Iroquois County Historical Society
4 was organized and circulated petitions throughout the county
5 not to sell the old courthouse; the petitions were approved by
6 the County Board of Supervisors and the old courthouse
7 re-opened as a museum in 1975; that same year, the old
8 courthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic
9 Places; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
12 recognize the City of Watseka on the 150th anniversary of its
13 founding and we wish it many more wonderful years; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the City of Watseka.