

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, McKinley "Deacon" Davis was born on August 3,
3 1932 in Freeport to McKinley and Josephine Davis; he was a
4 graduate of Freeport High School in 1951; the same year, he
5 was an All-State center for the Freeport Pretzels State
6 Champion Team; and

7 WHEREAS, Deacon Davis graduated from the University of
8 Iowa in 1955, where he played basketball for four years; he
9 married Lillie Burton on October 18, 1958; and

10 WHEREAS, Deacon Davis may be best remembered as an
11 original member of the Harlem Globetrotters and was a member
12 of that team from 1955 to 1957; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis went on to work as director of the
14 Washington Park Community Center (Concord Center) in
15 Rockford, as recreation supervisor with the Rockford Park
16 District, and as executive director of the Booker Washington
17 Center in Rockford; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis spent a great portion of his life
19 working for Northern Illinois University; he was the founder
20 of the Northern Illinois University C.H.A.N.C.E. program,
21 which is soon to be renamed in his honor; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1981, Mr. Davis was selected to join the
23 Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame and in 2000, he
24 earned the University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Award; he
25 passed away on Thursday, March 20, 2003; and

26 WHEREAS, On Sunday, June 22, 2003, the Ethnic Heritage
27 Museum will host a "Tribute to Deacon Davis" in honor of his
28 many accomplishments throughout his life; therefore, be it

29 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
30 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we recognize the many contributions of McKinley "Deacon"
2 Davis to the citizens of the State of Illinois; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Deacon Davis as an expression of
6 our deepest respect and esteem for the many contributions he
7 made during his lifetime.