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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois wish to congratulate WGEM-TV on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its first broadcast; and

WHEREAS, Quincy Broadcasting Company was granted a construction permit for WGEM-TV on June 18, 1953; soon after, Quincy Newspapers, Inc. Executive Vice President Thomas C. Oakley and WGEM General Manager Joseph Bonansinga, left for the first of several trips to New York to secure network programming for WGEM-TV; they settled on NBC for the network affiliation, but also featured ABC programs due to ties with ABC radio; and

WHEREAS, At 7:30 on the evening of Friday, September 4, 1953, the first program was broadcast on WGEM-TV Channel 10; the first broadcast consisted of a few remarks by announcer Bill Wegman, followed by a 1941 movie entitled "Broadway Limited", and a newscast presented entirely from memory by Charlie Griffith; and

WHEREAS, Over WGEM's 50 years of broadcast public service, the station has served as the primary medium for local and national news, public affairs and community awareness campaigns, local and network programs, and special local programming; WGEM has featured local interest stories from Washington, D.C. to Germany and from every corner of the tri-state area; some of the more significant stories WGEM has covered have included the Flood of 1993 and presidential and political visits and debates; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate WGEM-TV on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its first broadcast; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to WGEM-TV as an expression of respect and esteem
3 for the many years of news and public interest coverage it
4 has produced.