



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that the 175th  
3 anniversary of the founding of Coles County occurred in  
4 December of 2005; on December 25, 1830, the Illinois State  
5 Legislature granted the petition to form Coles County in  
6 east-central Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Between 1820 and 1840, two migrations settled in  
8 Illinois; the group from New York and New England settled  
9 Northern Illinois, and the group from the Ohio and Wabash River  
10 Valleys settled in Southern Illinois, including what is now  
11 Coles County; and

12 WHEREAS, The first permanent settlement in Coles County  
13 occurred in 1824 in Hutton Township near the Embarras River; in  
14 that year, a small group of men from Crawford County decided to  
15 settle there; one of the early settlers, Benjamin Parker, built  
16 his cabin on the east bank of the Embarras River; in 1826, he  
17 moved to the present site of Charleston and was joined by other  
18 settlers, thus forming a permanent settlement; and

19 WHEREAS, It was the location of that permanent settlement  
20 that was chosen to serve as the county seat for the new county;  
21 named Charleston for another early settler, Charles Morton, the  
22 land for the first county courthouse was 40 acres, 20 each  
23 donated by Mr. Parker and Mr. Morton; and

24 WHEREAS, Coles County was previously a part of Crawford  
25 County, which stretched from its current location to the  
26 northern State line, covering about a third of Illinois; the  
27 county got its name from Edward Coles, second governor of  
28 Illinois known for his anti-slavery sentiments; at the time,  
29 Coles County included what are now Cumberland and Douglas  
30 counties; and

1           WHEREAS, Today most Coles County workers are employed in  
2 agriculture and industry; business, transportation facilities,  
3 an airport, and favorable factory sites have influenced the  
4 development of industry in the county; the Mattoon area has  
5 about 20 manufacturing and business firms with heavy  
6 employment; the Charleston area has about 15; and

7           WHEREAS, A celebration of the 175th anniversary of Coles  
8 County's founding is being planned for Charleston's Fourth of  
9 July celebration; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we congratulate the citizens of Coles County on the occasion of  
13 the 175th anniversary of the county's founding; and be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the Coles County Board as an expression of our  
17 esteem and with best wishes for a fruitful future.