

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize milestone events in  
4 the lives of the citizens of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, On October 21, 2001 the First Presbyterian  
6 Church in Centralia, which is celebrating its 145th year in  
7 existence, honored Pastor Edwin E. Evans for his 30 years in  
8 ministry; and

9 WHEREAS, Pastor Evans was born in Coatesville,  
10 Pennsylvania, where his father was the pastor of a large  
11 Presbyterian Church; he attended a Christian boarding school  
12 in Florida during his high school years and he received his  
13 bachelor's degree in 1968 from Calvin College in Grand  
14 Rapids, Michigan; in 1971, he received his master's of  
15 divinity from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and in 1984  
16 he received his doctor of ministry from McCormick Theological  
17 Seminary in Chicago; and

18 WHEREAS, At Calvin College, Pastor Evans met his future  
19 wife, Betty; they were married in August of 1968 and are the  
20 proud parents of two sons, Ed Jr. and Carl; and

21 WHEREAS, At the beginning of his career, Pastor Evans  
22 served as pastor of the New Harrisburg Presbyterian Church in  
23 Ohio; he then worked as an associate pastor for 3 and one  
24 half years at a large church in Galesburg, Illinois; then in  
25 1981, he became the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in  
26 Centralia; and

27 WHEREAS, During his time at First Presbyterian Church,  
28 Pastor Evans oversaw many new additions to the 80-year old  
29 church, including structural renovations to the church  
30 structure, the development of youth programs, including youth  
31 mission trips, and the implementation of the "Stephen

1 Ministry", a program that trains individuals who wish to  
2 become "listeners" to those experiencing grief or hardship;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Pastor Evans guided First Presbyterian Church as  
5 it developed a relationship with a sister church in Malawi,  
6 Africa; while visiting Malawi, Pastor Evans oversaw the  
7 dedication of a newly constructed church and participated in  
8 153 baptisms; in addition, he was selected by the Knights of  
9 Templar of Illinois to take part in a tour of Israel and  
10 recently journeyed to Greece to trek in the footsteps of St.  
11 Paul; and

12 WHEREAS, Pastor Evans worked with the late Rev. Charles  
13 Brown of the Second Baptist Church in Centralia on the  
14 "Concerned Citizens" program, a program dealing with issues  
15 of race, education, finances, and housing in the community  
16 and working toward futhering communication between various  
17 social, ethnic, and governmental groups in Centralia; in  
18 addition, Pastor Evans serves as President of the Ministerial  
19 Alliance where he helped organize a unity service that  
20 included Hindi, Islamic, Jewish, and Christian faiths; he  
21 also works with the Covenant Churches, a group of local  
22 churches, in an effort to foster familiarity between  
23 churches; and

24 WHEREAS, Pastor Evans has witnessed many changes in the  
25 Centralia community throughout his ministry; he works with  
26 people of all religions and races and has become a vital  
27 component of the Centralia community; therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
29 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
30 we congratulate Pastor Ed Evans as he celebrates the 30th  
31 anniversary of his ordination; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Pastor Ed Evans as an expression of our esteem.