

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize milestone dates in
4 the history of organizations of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that Joliet's
6 Rialto Square Theatre is celebrating its 75th anniversary on
7 May 24, 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, George, Louis, Maurice, Jules, Harry, and Claude
9 Rubens opened the doors of their "dream theatre" on May 24,
10 1926; the brothers were pioneers in the theatrical business
11 and formed an alliance with M.A. Felman to establish the
12 largest theatre-operating organization in the world; and

13 WHEREAS, Rubens' Rialto Square Theatre exhibits
14 definitions of Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Baroque, and Rococo
15 styles of architecture to create a "palace for the people"
16 within its celestial city; it is considered "a shrine to
17 democracy where there are no privileged patrons"; and

18 WHEREAS, Some of the entertainment world's shining stars
19 appeared on the Rialto's stage, including Bing Crosby, Bob
20 Hope, Lawrence Welk, Ronald Regan, Duke Ellington, the Marx
21 Brothers, Marcel Marceau, Liberace, Bill Cosby, Cary Grant,
22 Sid Ceasar, Jay Leno, Mel Torme, and Gregory Peck; and

23 WHEREAS, The Rialto became a cornerstone for commercial
24 development that helped make Joliet's central business
25 district a Mecca of shopping and entertainment; it was
26 renovated and restored in 1980, and now is considered a
27 historical landmark; and

28 WHEREAS, Through Joliet's prosperity and lean times, the
29 Rialto has been at its center as a movie palace; the Rialto
30 has transformed from being strictly a movie house to becoming
31 a regional performing arts center; it is currently operated

1 by over 300 dedicated volunteers who help serve patrons as
2 ushers, bartenders, hospitality hosts and office help; and

3 WHEREAS, The Rialto Square Theatre continues to serve the
4 greater Joliet area and Will County through its programs and
5 facilities not only for the performing arts but also
6 commercial retail space in Joliet's City Center; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we congratulate Joliet's Rialto Square Theatre on the
11 celebration of its 75th anniversary of service to the town of
12 Joliet, Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Joliet's Rialto Square Theatre as an expression
15 of our esteem.