



HR1339

LRB096 22616 KXB 41937 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the Reverend  
4 Doctor Clay Evans of Chicago on the occasion of his 85th  
5 birthday; and

6           WHEREAS, Clay Evans was born on June 23, 1925, in  
7 Brownsville, Tennessee; he later moved to Chicago, where he  
8 started the Fellowship Baptist Church and helped launch  
9 Operation PUSH; and

10           WHEREAS, After graduating from George Washington Carver  
11 High School in Brownsville, he moved to Chicago to attend  
12 seminary school; he studied at the Chicago Baptist Institute,  
13 the Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the University  
14 of Chicago Divinity School; he was ordained a Baptist minister  
15 in 1950, and in 1958 founded the Fellowship Baptist Church,  
16 affectionately called "The Ship" by its parishioners, on the  
17 South Side of Chicago; and

18           WHEREAS, In the pulpit, Reverend Evans developed a  
19 reputation as an innovative and passionate preacher; he also  
20 gained an extensive evangelical following throughout the  
21 Midwest and the South, where his weekly sermons are aired on  
22 radio and television; he has also influenced scores of new

1 evangelists, as some eighty-one ministers have studied under  
2 him; and

3 WHEREAS, Reverend Evans was appointed to the International  
4 Committee of Reference in 1988, working to create a global  
5 ministry; in 1965, he teamed up with the Reverend Jesse Jackson  
6 to start Operation PUSH, one of the country's leading civil  
7 rights organizations; between 1971 and 1976, he served as  
8 chairman of Operation PUSH and set direction for the group; he  
9 published an autobiography, *From Plough Handle to Pulpit*, in  
10 1982, chronicling his journey from the fields of his childhood  
11 home in Tennessee to the forefront of the civil rights  
12 movement; and

13 WHEREAS, Reverend Doctor Clay Evans is married to Lutha Mae  
14 Hollingshed and they have five children; a celebration will be  
15 held on July 12, 2010 to commemorate his life and legacy;  
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
18 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
19 congratulate Reverend Doctor Clay Evans on his 85th birthday  
20 and wish him continued good health and success for years to  
21 come; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Reverend Doctor Clay Evans as a symbol of our  
2 respect and esteem.