



HR0303

LRB098 11825 MST 44980 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly are
3 saddened to learn of the death of polka sensation Eddie
4 Blazonczyk Sr., who passed away on May 21, 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. was born on July 12, 1941, in
6 Chicago; he grew up hearing a broad range of polka bands at the
7 Pulaski Ballroom and the Mountaineer Tavern, which were
8 operated on the southwest side of Chicago by his parents; he
9 attended high school in Wisconsin and ventured out into
10 rock-and-roll, initially performing under the name of Eddie
11 Bell and touring with the likes of Buddy Holly, Gene Vincent,
12 and Brenda Lee; and

13 WHEREAS, Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. had his own publishing
14 company, his own label known as Bel-Aire, a music school, and
15 was constantly touring with the Versatones, a band that
16 flourished from the early 1960s until December of 2011; and

17 WHEREAS, Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. is a 1986 Grammy award winner
18 for the album "Another Polka Celebration"; he received over a
19 dozen Grammy nominations throughout his career and was awarded
20 a National Heritage Fellowship in 1998 presented by then First
21 Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton; and

1 WHEREAS, Eddie Blazonczyk Sr. is survived by his son, Eddie
2 Blazonczyk, Jr.; his wife, Christine "Tish" Blazonczyk; his
3 son, Anthony (Rena); his daughter, Katherine; his
4 grandchildren, Cayle, Anya, and Anthony, Jr.; his sister,
5 Louise Kurek; and many nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we mourn the passing of Eddie Blazonczyk Sr., and extend our
9 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
10 and loved him; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That to honor his memory we declare Eddie
12 Blazonczyk Sr.'s song "Polka Celebration" as the official
13 Illinois State polka; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Eddie Blazonczyk Sr., Governor Pat
16 Quinn, and Secretary of State Jesse White.