



HR0131

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize the citizens of the  
4 City of Salem on the occasion of the City's 150th anniversary  
5 on April 17, 2015; and

6           WHEREAS, The City of Salem was initially organized as a  
7 town on February 14, 1855 and was incorporated into a city on  
8 April 17, 1865; and

9           WHEREAS, The New Madrid earthquake of 1811 caused the  
10 Mississippi River to flow backwards, church bells to ring as  
11 far away as Boston, and sent Captain Samuel Young searching for  
12 a more hospitable home, which he found when he reached  
13 present-day Salem; he set up camp on what is now the courthouse  
14 square; and

15           WHEREAS, A severe drought hit northern and central Illinois  
16 in 1820, which contributed to wagon loads of people traveling  
17 to Illinois; as this was compared to the Biblical story of  
18 Israel going to Egypt to purchase grain, southern Illinois  
19 became known as "Egypt" and Salem became the "Gateway of Little  
20 Egypt"; and

21           WHEREAS, Salem was originally founded in 1823 as the county

1 seat of Marion County; and

2 WHEREAS, Salem is located halfway between the Indiana and  
3 Missouri borders on what was originally the Vincennes-St. Louis  
4 Road, now U.S. Route 50; Salem evolved into a stagecoach stop  
5 on the Vincennes Trail; and

6 WHEREAS, Salem was home to William Jennings Bryan, who was  
7 known as "The Great Commoner" and "The Silver-Tongued Orator"  
8 and was a candidate for President of the United States;  
9 Jennings was born in Salem on March 19, 1860; he attended Salem  
10 public schools and was a member of First United Presbyterian  
11 Church; a bronze statue stands today in Bryan Memorial Park on  
12 the east side of Illinois Route 37 North; and

13 WHEREAS, Salem played a significant role in the G.I. Bill  
14 of Rights; it was born in Luther B. Easley Post No. 128 of the  
15 American Legion in Salem on November 4, 1943 and was drafted by  
16 Omar J. McMakin and Earl W. Merritt, both of Salem, before  
17 being taken to Washington D.C. to be signed into law; and

18 WHEREAS, Salem is rich in history, beauty, and solid  
19 American values; active volunteer support, the Salem Chamber of  
20 Commerce, the Historic and Patriotic Commission, and the Keep  
21 Salem Beautiful Organization play an essential role in the  
22 community; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 congratulate the citizens of the City of Salem on the occasion  
4 of the City's 150th anniversary and wish them great success and  
5 happiness in the future; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the City of Salem as a symbol of our esteem and  
8 respect.