



HR1342

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, On July 4th, 1866, General William Tecumseh  
3 Sherman attended the grand celebration of the Fourth of July at  
4 Salem in Marion County and gave a patriotic speech; and

5           WHEREAS, General Sherman (1820-1891) fought for the Union  
6 in the American Civil War under the leadership of President  
7 Abraham Lincoln; he is best remembered for his capture of  
8 Atlanta, Georgia in September of 1864 and his "March to the  
9 Sea", finally taking Savannah in December of 1864; and

10           WHEREAS, An estimated 25,000 people attended General  
11 Sherman's speech, which he presented on a wooden platform with  
12 a backdrop of tattered battle flags of various Illinois  
13 regiments and mottoes complimentary to General Sherman,  
14 Governor Richard J. Oglesby, and General John A. Logan; in  
15 addition, Col. E. N. Bates, of Centralia read the Declaration  
16 of Independence and General John Alexander Logan, Union General  
17 and U.S. Senator, also gave a speech; at the completion of Gen.  
18 Sherman's remarks, a glee club sang the tune "Sherman's March  
19 to the Sea"; and

20           WHEREAS, General Sherman's speech, recorded in the Weekly  
21 Missouri Democrat July 10, 1866, was deemed more of an address  
22 to the nation than just the residents of Salem; and

1           WHEREAS, 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the  
2 presentation of General Sherman's speech and a commemorative  
3 re-enactment of his speech and others will be presented in  
4 Bryan Memorial Park (known as Hulls Grove at the time of the  
5 speech) on July 4, 2016; and

6           WHEREAS, Salem residents Geff Purcell and Luke Purcell led  
7 the organizing of this reenactment performed by Kaskaskia  
8 College English professor, Clint Stevens, and by enlisting the  
9 cooperation and help of Danny Tolka, Jack McGuire, Lynn and  
10 Mark Larimer, Linda and Glenn Burleson, the Salem City Council,  
11 the Salem Historical Commission, the Salem Tourism Board, the  
12 Mount Olive Lodge No. 114 of the International Order of Odd  
13 Fellows, the Luther B. Easley American Legion Post 128, and the  
14 Marion County Genealogical and Historical Society; therefore,  
15 be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
18 commemorate and congratulate the City of Salem and all of the  
19 volunteers and community groups for their efforts to keep alive  
20 the history of our State and nation; and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
22 presented to the City of Salem and all organizers who helped to

1 make this 150th Anniversary event a success.