

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Dennie Bridges, Illinois Wesleyan University  
3 athletic director and coach of the Titans basketball team,  
4 has announced his retirement as coach after 36 seasons; and

5 WHEREAS, Coach Bridges is a native of Anchor, Illinois;  
6 as a student at Illinois Wesleyan University he was a  
7 four-year letterman and starter in basketball and baseball  
8 and a three-year football letterman (all-conference  
9 quarterback); he was a two-year captain, most valuable  
10 player, and all-conference player while playing basketball;  
11 he is currently 40th in school scoring history with 926  
12 career points; and

13 WHEREAS, After graduation in 1961, Dennie Bridges coached  
14 at Plainfield High School for three years; he returned to  
15 Illinois Wesleyan University in 1964 as assistant basketball  
16 and head tennis coach; in the 1965-1966 season he became head  
17 basketball coach, leading the Titans to a sixth College  
18 Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) championship in  
19 seven years; in 1981 he became the athletic director at  
20 Illinois Wesleyan University; and

21 WHEREAS, As athletic director, Coach Bridges has added  
22 women's varsity swimming, women's soccer, women's cross  
23 country, and women's golf; he has seen the return of men's  
24 varsity swimming, and added men's soccer as a varsity sport;  
25 the construction of the Shirk Center and Fort Natatorium was  
26 completed during his time as athletic director; he was active  
27 in fundraising for the Jack Horenberger Baseball Field, which  
28 opened in April of 1999 and yielded new facilities in  
29 softball, the Neis Soccer Field, and renovations of the  
30 football field and outdoor track; Coach Bridges will continue  
31 his responsibilities as athletic director after his  
32 retirement from coaching, and the staff and students at

1 Illinois Wesleyan University can look forward to the  
2 continued success of this position; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach Bridges has a career coaching record of  
4 667-319; this season the team finished 24-7 and placed third  
5 in the national Division III tournament; the 1997 team won  
6 the Division III title, earning him Division III "Coach of  
7 the Year" honors; and his 1996 team also won a third place  
8 national finish; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Bridges is one of only 22 college coaches  
10 with more than 650 victories and retires as the winningest  
11 active coach in NCAA Division III men's basketball and he is  
12 second in Division III history; Coach Bridges has coached in  
13 the CCIW longer and won more league championships than any  
14 other coach in CCIW history; he has a league record of  
15 421-129 with 17 titles; and

16 WHEREAS, Coach Bridges has coached teams into the  
17 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national  
18 tournament seven times and compiled a record of 23-11 in NAIA  
19 postseason play, with two of his teams reaching the  
20 quarterfinals; Coach Bridges has conducted basketball clinics  
21 in Brazil, New Zealand, and Australia; he is a member of the  
22 Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame; he  
23 received the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Buzzy  
24 O'Connor award for meritorious service; and he has been the  
25 State's Division III Coach of the Year many times; and

26 WHEREAS, Coach Bridges has been an excellent role model  
27 for the young men he has worked with at Illinois Wesleyan  
28 University; he has had a positive effect in the shaping of  
29 their futures; and he has been a great sportsman; and

30 WHEREAS, Coach Dennie Bridges and his wife, Rita have  
31 three children, Angie, Steve, and Eric; they are the proud  
32 grandparents of Alyssa, Carly, Keegan, and Summer; therefore,

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we congratulate Coach Dennie Bridges on his successful  
5 coaching career at Illinois Wesleyan University and wish him  
6 nothing but the best in his future endeavors; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to Coach Dennie Bridges.