

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, September 17, 2003 marks the 40th Anniversary of  
3 former Beatle George Harrison's visit to Benton and Southern  
4 Illinois; this is a significant anniversary and until  
5 recently, it was long overlooked; and

6 WHEREAS, The visit occurred just five months before the  
7 Beatles' first performance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and the  
8 rise of Beatlemania; at the time of his visit, the Beatles  
9 were not known in this country; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison's visit to Southern Illinois  
11 occurred as a result of his sister living in Benton; her  
12 husband was an engineer with the Freeman Coal Company in West  
13 Frankfort, and it was an opportunity for George to get away  
14 from the fame and fanfare that the Beatles were already  
15 experiencing in England; their song "She Loves You" was the  
16 number one song in England the week he arrived in America;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, What makes George Harrison's trip so significant  
19 for Beatle historians is that there were several firsts that  
20 occurred just prior to and during his visit to Southern  
21 Illinois; and

22 WHEREAS, During the early summer of 1963, his sister  
23 Louise was trying to promote the Beatles in this country by  
24 having local radio stations play the English group's songs;  
25 the first radio station in the United States to do so was  
26 WFRX in West Frankfort, and the first song that deejay,  
27 Marcia Schafer Raubach, played was "From Me To You"; when he  
28 visited the area, one of the first things he wanted to do was  
29 to thank Marcia and visit the station, where she interviewed  
30 him; this was the first time any Beatle was interviewed in  
31 the United States; and

1           WHEREAS, George Harrison also played music with a local  
2 group, the Four Vests, during his visit at two locations, the  
3 Eldorado VFW and the Boccie Ball Club in Benton; and

4           WHEREAS, Another interesting event that happened during  
5 George's visit was his purchase of a new guitar at a Southern  
6 Illinois music store; Gabe McCarty took him to the Fenton  
7 Music Store in Mt. Vernon, where he bought a Rickenbacher 425  
8 and later used it to play with the Beatles; and

9           WHEREAS, The home where Louise Harrison lived during her  
10 famous brother's visit in 1963 was scheduled to be demolished  
11 during the mid-1990s to make way for a parking lot for the  
12 local Illinois Department of Mines and Mineral office;  
13 however, a group of interested individuals, including Louise,  
14 later persuaded the State to spare it; today, the home  
15 located at 113 McCann Street, is a bed and breakfast and is  
16 owned by Jim and Daryl Chady and Cornelius and Dorothy  
17 Schultz; and

18           WHEREAS, George Harrison passed away on November 29,  
19 2001, after a long bout with cancer; a memorial service was  
20 held at the home; therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
23 we recognize the 40th anniversary of former Beatle George  
24 Harrison's visit to Southern Illinois; and be it further

25           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
26 presented to Louise Harrison, Gabe McCarty, Marcia Schafer  
27 Raubach, Jim and Daryl Chady, and Cornelius and Dorothy  
28 Schultz as an expression of our respect and esteem.