



HR1152

LRB099 21366 MST 47231 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize the contributions of James  
4 Gray as President of the Alton branch of the NAACP for the past  
5 24 years; and

6           WHEREAS, James Gray dedicated his life to improving the  
7 lives of Alton's African-American community and the community  
8 at-large; he has served as the President of the Alton branch of  
9 the NAACP since 1992; and

10           WHEREAS, James Gray broke many barriers during his  
11 lifetime; in 1966, he was the first African-American hired in  
12 the Light Oil Division of Amoco Oil Company; three years later  
13 he became the first African-American to be elected Union  
14 Representative in Amoco's history; in 1971, he became the first  
15 African-American to be elected Union President at a major oil  
16 refinery in the United States; and

17           WHEREAS, James Gray has been the recipient of numerous  
18 awards, including the "Yes I Can Award" for Amoco from the St.  
19 Louis Urban League; for three years in a row, he was recognized  
20 by the St. Louis American Newspaper for Blacks for making an  
21 impact in industry; and

1           WHEREAS, James Gray was instrumental in getting the City of  
2 Alton to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a city  
3 holiday; and

4           WHEREAS, James Gray worked with the Madison County Public  
5 Defender to bring African-American representation by hiring  
6 attorneys Luther Simmons and Scott Turner; he worked with the  
7 Alton School District and Scott Air Force Base to establish a  
8 Junior ROTC Program at Alton High School; and

9           WHEREAS, James Gray has expanded the NAACP's programs to  
10 help underprivileged children in the community; these programs  
11 include: giving away 1,000 backpacks full of school supplies  
12 every year at the Annual Back to School/Stay in School event,  
13 granting scholarships to students to maintain a C-average,  
14 taking children on a field trip to visit the Civil Rights  
15 Museum in Memphis, Tennessee, and helping children buy  
16 Christmas presents for their families; and

17           WHEREAS, James Gray's dedication to the NAACP for the past  
18 24 years has been unwavering; therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
21 recognize the contributions of James Gray as President of the  
22 Alton branch of the NAACP; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2   presented to James Gray as a symbol of our respect and esteem.