



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor the 1963 Northern Illinois University football team on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the team's Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship and NCAA College Division National Championship; and

3

4

5

6

7

8

WHEREAS, The 1963 Northern Illinois University football team brought national attention to Northern Illinois University and the DeKalb community with a 10-0-0 season and recognition as the NCAA's College Division National Champions; and

9

10

11

12

13

WHEREAS, The accomplishments of the 1963 Huskies helped provide the building blocks for a new football stadium on campus, NCAA University Division status, affiliation with the Mid-American Conference, and the success the Northern Illinois University football program enjoys today; and

14

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, The 1963 Huskies revolutionized the passing game in college football with a wide-open shotgun offense; and

19

20

WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University senior quarterback George Bork became the first player in the history of college

21

1 football to compile 3,000 passing yards in a single season and
2 rewrote the Northern Illinois University and NCAA record books;
3 in 1999, Bork became the first Huskie inducted into the College
4 Football Hall of Fame; and

5 WHEREAS, The 1963 Huskies featured a strong defense that
6 held opponents to less than 10 points per game and outscored
7 their opponents by 24 points per game; and

8 WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University quarterback George
9 Bork, receivers Hugh Rohrschneider and Gary Stearns, and center
10 Robert Evans all received Little All-America honors; a record
11 11 players were named All-Interstate Intercollegiate Athletic
12 Conference performers; and

13 WHEREAS, The 1963 Huskies are and will continue to be
14 remembered at Northern Illinois University by the National
15 Championship flag erected in 2011 and a bronze plaque dedicated
16 on October 12, 2012; and

17 WHEREAS, Winning a National Championship takes dedication
18 from all members of the team; and

19 WHEREAS, The men who made up the 1963 Northern Illinois
20 University football team are to be commended for their unity
21 and team strength; and

1 WHEREAS, The 1963 Huskie players included Jerry Andres, Joe
2 Bertone, George Bork, Dave Broderick, John Broderick, Richard
3 Calkins, David Casey, Ron Christian, David Cudden, Jack Dean,
4 Robert Evans, Jeff Fort, Jack Frost, John Haar, Dennis
5 Harrison, Mike Henigan, Terry Henigan, David Herstedt, David
6 Hildebrandt, Ed Janoski, Herb Jennings, Robert Johnson, Robert
7 Kerby, Jerry Kerner, Lynn McCann, Neal McDonald, Daniel Meyer,
8 Jim Modglin, Dave Mulderink, Robert Owens, William Pelkey, Hugh
9 Rohrschneider, Jack Secord, Ken Slimko, Roger Smith, Roger
10 Stark, Gary Stearns, Arny Vesely, Stan Vesely, Tom Walz, and
11 Charles Wood; and

12 WHEREAS, The Huskies were led by innovative Head Coach
13 Howard Fletcher; the assistant coaches were Dr. Robert Brigham,
14 Dr. Mark Dean, Jack Pheanis, and John Wrenn; the trainer was Al
15 Kranz; and the managers were Tom Bloom, Tom Dahlfors, and
16 Robert Kapheim; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 we commend and applaud the members of the 1963 Northern
20 Illinois University football team on the occasion of the 50th
21 anniversary of their national championship; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to each surviving member of the 1963 Northern
2 Illinois University football team.