



Introduced Version

**HOUSE
RESOLUTION No. _____**

Introduced by: **Turner**

A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring John R. Atkinson for his many years of community involvement and leadership in Gas City and Grant County.

Whereas, John R. Atkinson was a devoted husband to his wife Edna, father to his four sons, grandfather to his sixteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, a pillar to his friends, steadfast in his love for sports and the Twin City community;

Whereas, In 1958 Mr. Atkinson was instrumental in starting the Gas City Merchants baseball team, which in 1959 became the Twin City Bankers, and in the early 1970's became the Johnson Packers;

Whereas, John Atkinson was the driving force, in 1963 in



bringing about the building of Hundley Field Base Park in Gas City (this was the beginning of the Gas City Park);

Whereas, He was born in Gas City on January 24, 1927, was employed at Owens-Illinois Glass Factory, in Gas City, for more than 40 years, and retired as the supervisor of the corrugated department;

Whereas, Mr. Atkinson will forever be remembered as an easy-going, fun-loving man who was very active in the lives of his children and family;

Whereas, A member of the First United Methodist Church of Gas City, John Atkinson also served his Country in the United States Army during World War II and was a member of the Jonesboro American Legion Post 95, as well as the Gas City VFW Honor Guard;

Whereas, John was an avid sports fan, especially baseball, where he played catcher and coached the Gas City Merchants, later known as the Twin City Bankers and the Johnson Packers;

Whereas, The Twin City Bankers were to Grant County and Central Indiana, what the New York Yankees were to major league baseball;

Whereas, For decades John made Sunday afternoons of baseball and hometown American fun possible in Gas City;

Whereas, Mr. Atkinson also lined the baseball and football fields for Mississinewa High School, as well as running the scoreboard during football games, and just recently kept the score book for Mississinewa High School baseball games;

Whereas, John R. Atkinson passed away on April 16, 1999 leaving with those he loved and touched during his life the knowledge that he loved them and will always be with them in all they do;



Whereas, The impact that John had on the lives of each and every player, fan and person involved in the community will forever be remembered and deeply missed; and

Whereas, The State of Indiana, the people of Grant County, as well as the Twin City community, and baseball enthusiasts everywhere owe a great deal to John R. Atkinson for his many years of dedicated involvement in sports and community activities: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. The Indiana House of Representatives honors John R. Atkinson for his many years of service and involvement to the people of Grant County and the Twin City community.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to his wife Edna Atkinson, his sons- Mike, Dave, Rick and Bill, as well as his 16 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two brothers - Glen and Guy, and one sister, Doris Rice.

