



## Proclamation

- WHEREAS, radio broadcasts of rock and roll have defined generations and created communities of avid listeners whose love of music transcends all boundaries; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi, the "Wild Italian," came to WLS Radio on May 2, 1960, and proceeded to become the nation's top disc jockey, making Chicago the heart of rock and roll and sending a bright new sound out into the night to avid young fans in 40 states who kept their car radios tuned to AM 890 or listened to transistor radios hidden under their pillows; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi earned a lasting place in the history of American popular culture on February 8, 1963, when he became the first disc jockey in the United States to play a song by the Beatles, introducing American fans to "Please Please Me;" and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi returned to Chicago in 1967 as a disc jockey for WCFL, presenting specialty shows that educated millions of listeners about the soul and blues roots of rock and roll and hosting a weekly "Vietnam Show" that allowed listeners to send greetings to family and friends serving overseas; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi in 1984 became the signature voice for WJMK's Oldies 104.3, delighting his longtime fans for more than two decades and introducing new generations to the greatest popular music of the 1950s and 1960s; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi in 2006 brought his signature style and encyclopedic knowledge of rock and roll to WLS FM, where he now hosts "True Oldies on 94.7;" and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi's tremendous taste and screaming enthusiasm, which helped to launch some of the greatest artists in popular music, were honored in a 1995 exhibit on legendary disc jockeys at the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame and won him induction into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 1998; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi is beloved for his inexhaustible willingness to meet with his fans off the air, spinning records at thousands of dances, reunions, and charity events and holding the annual Dick Biondi Toy Drive for needy children for 18 years; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi has listened across five decades to records, tapes, compact disc and digital downloads, proving that while the medium may change, the message of the music continues loud and clear; and,
- WHEREAS, Dick Biondi celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his first Chicago broadcast on the weekend of May 1, 2010;

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2010, as **DICK BIONDI DAY** in Illinois, in recognition of his lifelong love of music, his generous willingness to lend his time and talent to a wide array of worthy causes, his extraordinary influence on the musical taste of generations of listeners, and his enduring legacy as one of the greatest disc jockeys of all time.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* FIRST *day of* MAY, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord two thousand and*  
TEN, *and of the State of Illinois*  
*the one hundred and* NINETY-SECOND

*Esse White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*  
GOVERNOR