



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 964		DATE: 4/30/2024	
COMMITTEE: Special Committee on Tourism			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT HEMPHILL		PHONE NUMBER:	
REPRESENTING: BRISTOL MYERS SQUIBB		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 156			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/30/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRENT NEVERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: brentnevers@msn.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 6:22 AM
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Please consider supporting s 964			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: BRIAN JOHNSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: brianj7905@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/28/2024 8:16 PM

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Eddie Gaedel's contribution to baseball and to special people everywhere, highlights all people's value and ability to live a joyful life and add joy to others lives.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KYNA IMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-651-1185	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI NURSES ASSOCIATION, MISSOURI CITIZENS FOR THE ARTS, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1483			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/30/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ROBERTA BROEKER		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: rlbroeker@aol.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 1:53 PM
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My name is Roberta Broeker and I am a member of the Eddie Gaedel Society – Chapter #10, located in Jefferson City, Missouri. I am providing this written testimony in support of Senate Bill 964 and specifically the provision to designate August 19th of each year as “Eddie Gaedel Day” in the state of Missouri. Chapters of the Eddie Gaedel Society gather each August 19th to celebrate Eddie Gaedel Day. On the same day, many baseball broadcasting networks and social media channels extend “Eddie Gaedel Day” greetings. Our Jefferson City Chapter not only holds this annual chapter event, but encourages our members and friends to do good things in small ways, knowing that no good effort is wasted. For example, we routinely participate in neighborhood trash pickups, and support our local Mink League Jefferson City Renegades baseball team. In 2023, Missouri Governor Mike Parson issued a Certificate of Recognition to the Eddie Gaedel Society – Jefferson City Chapter #10 and encouraged all citizens to recognize the legacy Eddie Gaedel left on baseball history of the State of Missouri. It was on August 19th, 1951 that Eddie Gaedel made baseball history at Sportsman’s Park in St. Louis, Missouri, as a member of the St. Louis Browns. Weighing 65 pounds and standing 3 feet 7 inches tall, Gaedel is the shortest player in the history of Major League Baseball. On that day, he entered the second half of a doubleheader between the St. Louis Browns and Detroit Tigers. At the direction of Browns owner Bill Veeck, Gaedel took four straight pitches, all outside of his 1 ½ inch strike zone, before walking to first base and being replaced by a pinch runner. Sadly, before Gaedel could participate in another game at the major league level, he was barred by American League President Will Harridge. Although Gaedel appeared in only one game and made just one trip to the plate, he is a baseball legend and forever linked with the St. Louis Browns and an important part of Major League Baseball and Missouri sports history. Advancing Senate Bill 964 and designating August 19th as “Eddie Gaedel Day” in the state of Missouri will ensure his story and legacy are not forgotten. Senate Bill 964 will lead others to St. Louis where they can see Eddie Gaedel’s famous jersey, with the number 1/8 on the back, located in the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum along with other memorabilia of both the St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Browns. Eddie Gaedel serves as evidence of the big difference one person can make. No matter how small someone is (or is perceived to be), they can make a difference when they stand up and take their chance. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RON BERRY		PHONE NUMBER: 660-537-2239	
REPRESENTING: ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, AS AN INDIVIDUAL		TITLE: REGISTERED LOBBYIST	
ADDRESS: PO BOX 722			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65102
EMAIL: ronalddberr@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 9:01 PM

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Chris provided many of us with support and encouragement by example. Although I am registered lobbyist, I wish to express my support for SB964 as an individual.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE CALLIS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: scallis@centurylink.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 12:24 PM
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Steve Callis, state coordinator for International Compost Awareness Week.1. Composting returns organic resources to the soil, increasing soil fertility and improving soil structure. This also helps to conserve water during extreme drought or flooding, reduces water consumption, decreases the dependence on chemical fertilizers and decreases erosion.2. Composting is also an effective form of waste reduction, making composting one of the primary methods that communities can use to reach waste diversion goals and fight climate change.3. Composting creates green jobs and infrastructure for cities and states implementing composting programs.4. Missouri Compost Awareness Week will be a publicity and education initiative to showcase compost production and demonstrate the benefits of composting and using compost.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: STEVE MEYSTRIK		PHONE NUMBER: 573-353-8652	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EDDIE GADEL SOCIETY - JEFFERSON CITY CHAPTER #10		TITLE: PRESIDENT	
ADDRESS: 3805 FAIRWAY DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL: meystrik@centurylink.net	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 11:59 AM
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As President of the Eddie Gaedel Society – Chapter #10, comprised of over 100 members and located in Jefferson City, Missouri, I support Senate Bill 964 and specifically the provision to designate August 19th of each year as “Eddie Gaedel Day” in the state of Missouri. August 19th is recognized by many throughout the country as Eddie Gaedel Day. Today, chapters of the Eddie Gaedel Society are active in the states of Washington, Illinois, Michigan, California, Texas, and Missouri. The Eddie Gaedel Society is committed to performing charitable works, supporting libraries and local theater, sponsoring youth and other local baseball leagues, and doing little things to make a big difference in our communities. Perhaps you have even seen the City of Jefferson’s Adopt-a-Street sign as you exit the Missouri River Bridge to West Main Street – as our volunteers pick up litter and help keep the area around our beautiful Capitol clean. All chapters of the Eddie Gaedel Society gather their membership each August 19th to celebrate Eddie Gaedel Day. Each year on August 19th – many baseball broadcasting networks and social media channels extend “Eddie Gaedel Day” greetings to their fans, listeners, and followers. Eddie Gaedel Day is a widely recognized “day” among baseball fans. In 2016, Rep. Denny Heck of Spokane, Washington spoke before the United States Congress – acknowledging “Eddie Gaedel Day” and joining “many fans in Spokane, St. Louis, and around the baseball world in a tip of the cap to the immortal Eddie Gaedel.” Last year, Missouri Governor Mike Parson issued a Certificate of Recognition to the Eddie Gaedel Society – Jefferson City Chapter #10 and encouraged all citizens to recognize the lasting legacy that Eddie Gaedel left on baseball history in our great state and across the nation. It is only fitting that August 19th be designated as “Eddie Gaedel Day” in Missouri – for it was on August 19th, 1951 – that Eddie Gaedel made baseball history at Sportsman’s Park in St. Louis, Missouri, as a member of the St. Louis Browns. Weighing 65 pounds and standing 3 feet 7 inches tall, Eddie Gaedel became the shortest player in the history of Major League Baseball when he entered the second half of a doubleheader between the St. Louis Browns and Detroit Tigers. At the direction of Browns owner Bill Veeck, Eddie Gaedel took four straight pitches – all outside of his 1 ½ inch strike zone – before walking to first base and being replaced by a pinch runner. Sadly, before Eddie Gaedel could participate in another game at the major league level – he was barred by American League President Will Harridge. Harridge went so far as to ban Eddie Gaedel’s name and statistics from the record book – an injustice that was later corrected. Although Eddie Gaedel appeared in only one game and made just one trip to the plate – he is a baseball legend – forever linked with the St. Louis Browns. Gaedel’s one-day career has been detailed in baseball documentaries, popular television programs, cartoons, literature, art, and song. Eddie Gaedel is an important part of Major League Baseball and Missouri sports history and his story must continue to be told. Bill Veeck told Eddie Gaedel that his name would go into the record books for all time, that he would be famous, and that he’d be immortal. Advancing Senate Bill 964 and designating August 19th as “Eddie Gaedel Day” in the state of Missouri will ensure his story and

legacy are not forgotten. Advancing Senate Bill 964 will lead others to St. Louis where they can see Eddie Gaedel's famous jersey – with the number 1/8 on the back – located in the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum along with other memorabilia of both the St. Louis Cardinals and St. Louis Browns. Passing Senate Bill 964 will ensure that once a year – the citizens of this great state will be reminded of the big difference one person can make (no matter how little they are or are perceived to be) – when they have the courage to step up to the plate, dig in, and stare down whatever might be coming their way. Thank you for anything you can do help ensure Eddie Gaedel has his day in Missouri.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/27/2024 8:43 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: THOMAS PATRICK KEEFE		PHONE NUMBER: 509-953-9490	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: EDDIE GADEL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL		TITLE: FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, EDDIE GADEL SOCIETY	
ADDRESS: 723 WEST NORA AVENUE			
CITY: SPOKANE		STATE: WA	ZIP: 99205
EMAIL: feniantom48@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/29/2024 10:43 AM	
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My name is Thomas Patrick Keefe, and I live in Spokane, Washington. On behalf of the Eddie Gaedel Society, Spokane Chapter #1, and as founder of the Eddie Gaedel Society, International, it is my honor to express our enthusiastic support for S 964, designating August 19th as "Eddie Gaedel Day" in Missouri. Missouri is home base to our growing movement, owing to St. Louis Browns owner Bill Veeck's decision to offer a professional baseball contract to a 3'7", 65 lb. self-proclaimed "red-hot fan" named Eddie Gaedel nearly seventy-five years ago, thus making him the only fan to ever appear in a major league baseball game. The uniform Eddie wore that day (with the number 1/8) was borrowed from the Browns batboy, Bill DeWitt, Jr., who went on to a distinguished baseball career of his own!! need to proudly and enthusiastically give a tip of the cap to our Jefferson City Chapter #10 for their tireless efforts to inform and educate others about Eddie Gaedel and his short, but historic baseball career. We will be designating them as our "legacy chapter" at this year's annual meeting here in Spokane, where a statue of Eddie, and a proclamation by the Mayor of Spokane designating August 19th "Eddie Gaedel Appreciation Day" have drawn the attention of baseball fans for over ten years. The story of Eddie Gaedel never fails to draw either smiles or laughter upon being heard by baseball fans, short and tall. I sincerely hope that Missouri legislators from across the political spectrum will come together as one, raise their voices and shout, "Take a walk, Eddie!" Bill Veeck promised little Eddie immortality if he would take that trip to the plate, draw a walk, and be remembered forever as the only red hot fan to make it to the big leagues. Missouri's future generations deserve to hear Eddie's story, and this legislation will go a long way toward accomplishing that goal. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: TYLER TRAVERS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: tylerchristiantravers@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/30/2024 6:58 AM
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I want to thank the Chairman, Rep. Seitz, and Sen. O'Laughlin for carrying this forward. I am the cousin of the late Chris Sifford. He has many colleagues and friends still in the building from his time working here and all who have ever spoken to me about him have spoken highly of his character, kindness, and how he would light up a room. It would mean a great deal to my family to get this done and we appreciate your support. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: WES HIGGINS		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
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CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: higginswes33@gmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 4/28/2024 4:24 PM
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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		SUBMIT DATE: 4/30/2024 11:59 PM

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I am numerous issues with this Proposed Bill of providing Designations and Recognition. We are bombarding and overloading Missourians with Days, Weeks and Months. The Bill is Selecting Winners & Losers and leaving out numerous Great Missourians who have greatly contributed to our State's Growth and Well-Being. I highly disagree with the "Apple Capital of Missouri being Waverly." We are leaving out numerous other Communities who grow Apples. I am also in disagreement with the Designation of "Ozarks Highland Spirits Region." Again this leaves out numerous other Missouri Spirits.