

Proclamation

#P2009-06

WHEREAS, literacy in America is crucial to our social, economic, cultural, and social values, and

WHEREAS, as Americans, especially younger Americans, read less and they read

less well, and

WHEREAS, inasmuch as Americans are spending less time reading, comprehension skills are eroding, and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all Americans ages 18 to 24, read no books for pleasure,

and

WHEREAS, when reading does occur, it competes today with other media such as

TV, video/computer game-playing, instant messaging and emailing, and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts, the DeKalb Public Library, Altrusa of DeKalb/Sycamore, Northern Illinois University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Division of External Affairs, Kishwaukee College Family Literacy Program and the DeKalb County Board of Supervisors

are all committed to restore reading to the center of American culture, and

WHEREAS, The Big Read is a program envisioned as a partnership in our community to encourage children and adults to embrace reading and discussion of the same book,

NOW, THEREFORE, _____ -- declare the month of October 2009

"THE BIG READ FOR DeKalb County"

Signed this _____, 2009