

By Candy Webb

If you live in White House, chances are you have met Alex Kiss. Kiss; a happy, gregarious, Hungarian transplant has devoted his many years here to giving of himself for the betterment of the community.

With his quick smile, ready jokes and contagious laughter, one only has to know Kiss for a short while to begin appreciating the gem of a person the city has in its own backyard with him.

While he can be found at most civic functions, willing to lend a hand in any way needed, he is most well known for his years of dedication to helping found and promote the White House Soccer League.

Sunday, that appreciation became official when State Representative, Mike McDonald, surprised Kiss at the library's 20-year-anniversary ceremony with his own house resolution #215, honoring him for his hard work and dedication to the White House soccer league.

Telling the audience that the state assembly voted in this resolution to honor Kiss, McDonald motioned a surprised and smiling Kiss to the podium to receive his award and to speak.

In his usual fashion, Kiss soon had the audience roaring with laughter while he related some of the experiences he has had when returning home for a visit.

"When I go there, they call me the Hungarian Hillbilly," said Kiss. "And when I am here you all think I am Cajun."

On a more serious note, Kiss relayed the story of getting a few interested children together in 1983 to play soccer.

"It was a lot of fun and it began to grow," he said. "Then a private citizen, James Savage donated land for us to play on and it got even bigger."

Today's White House Soccer League, which is supported through the city park's department and played in several city parks, also hosts several large, multi-state soccer tournaments each year.

It is a fact that Kiss was instrumental in bringing to fruition and something he is very proud of.

"Now, we have grown from 40 kids to over 800 kids," said Kiss.

He thanked McDonald for his resolution and in keeping with the library anniversary celebration he told the audience that he was honored, will cherish it and with a mischievous smile added that if he ever dies it will hang in the White House Library.