

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TRANSCRIPTION DEBATE

302nd Legislative Day

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Speaker Madigan: "The House shall come to order. The Members shall be in their chairs. We ask the Members and our guests in the gallery to turn off laptop computers, cell phones and pagers. We ask the guests in the gallery to rise and join us for the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. We shall be led in prayer today by Lee Crawford, the pastor of the Cathedral of Praise Christian Center in Springfield."

Pastor Crawford: "Let us pray. Most gracious and sovereign God, You are the author and the finisher of our faith, You are the giver and the sustainer of our lives. Father, and Lord God, we pray this day that You would bestow Your most precious blessings upon this august Assembly. I pray that You will bless the Leader of this House as well as its Leadership. I pray that You will bless every Member. I pray that You will bless each and every last one of them to walk in a spirit of truth, in a spirit of strength, in a spirit of integrity. I pray this day that they would walk even as Your servants. First of all the servant of the people of this great State of Illinois and most of all the servants of the most high God. This we pray, Amen."

Speaker Madigan: "We shall be led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Representative Durkin."

Durkin - et al: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Speaker Madigan: "Roll Call for Attendance. Representative Currie."

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Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. Please let the record show that Representatives Rich Bradley, Jefferies, McCarthy, and Scully are all excused today."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Bost."

Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please let the record reflect that all Republicans are present."

Speaker Madigan: "The Clerk shall take the record. There being 113 Members responding to the Attendance Roll Call, there is a quorum is present. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "Committee Reports. Representative Barbara Flynn Currie, Chairperson from the Committee on Rules, to which the following legislative measures and/or Joint Action Motions were referred, action taken on January 13, 2009, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'approved for floor consideration', 'recommends be adopted' is Amendment #3 to Senate Bill 171. Representative Colvin, Chairperson from the Committee on Consumer Protection, to which the following measure/s was/were referred, action taken on January 13, 2009, reported the same back with the following recommendation/s: 'recommends be adopted' is Floor Amendment #2 to Senate Bill 171."

Speaker Madigan: "On page 2 of the Calendar on the Order of Senate Bills-Second Reading there appears Senate Bill 171. Mr. Clerk, what is the status of the Bill?"

Clerk Mahoney: "Senate Bill 171 has been read a second time, previously. No Committee Amendments. Floor Amendments 1, 2 and 3 have all been approved for consideration."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Holbrook on Amendment #1."

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Holbrook: "Move to adopt House Amendment #1."

Speaker Madigan: "The Gentleman moves for the adoption of the Amendment. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. We're on Amendment #1. Mr. Black."

Black: "Yes, Mr. Speaker. An inquiry of the Chair. It's my understanding that the only Amendment you really want to adopt is 3, not 1 nor 2 but perhaps 3. As I recall, 3 calls for an immediate election for the United States Senate seat."

Holbrook: "Speaker, I ask to withdraw House Amendment 1 and 2."

Speaker Madigan: "Amendments #1 and 2 will be withdrawn. Amendment #3, Mr. Holbrook. Mr. Holbrook on 3."

Holbrook: "I move to adopt Amendment #3 and debate it on Third Reading."

Speaker Madigan: "Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The Amendment is adopted. Are there any further Amendments?"

Clerk Mahoney: "No further Amendments. No Motions filed."

Speaker Madigan: "Put the Bill on the Order of Third Reading and read the Bill for a third time."

Clerk Mahoney: "Senate Bill 171, a Bill for an Act concerning regulation. Third Reading of this Senate Bill."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Holbrook."

Holbrook: "Well, first, I'd like to thank Representative Black for correcting that. They moved my numbers on me. House Amendment #3, the Bill as amended, Senate Bill 171 provides for vast improvements in consumer education. It's an agreed Bill between the Attorney General's Office, the ICC, the industry and the Citizens Utility Board. It... it

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addresses many issues such as cancelation fees, switching procedures, solicitation addressing consumer education, certificates of service, and an ongoing obligation by the ICC. I also have a piece of legislative intent I'd like to read at this time into the record concerning Section 19-120. The proposed changes to Section 19-120 are intended to make clear that the Commission may act on its own motion rather than having to wait for individual complaints under Section 19-120(b) and to make clear that any and all of the remedies available under subsection (sic-Section) 19-120(c) is available to the Commission in an enforcement action. Both of these changes are intended to confirm exist.. already existing law and neither is intended to change the law. This should just improve it. I'd be glad to take any questions. This Bill came out of committee unanimously. I know of no opposition. I commend the ICC, the Attorney General's Office and all of the Members that worked on this. This is long overdue. Hopefully, we can get this done and these protections be put it. Be glad to take any questions."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Black."

Black: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Will the Sponsor yield?"

Speaker Madigan: "Sponsor yields."

Black: "Representative, this only deals with those companies that are attempting to sign up a customer under what we would call the 'alternative retail gas' or what in my area we'd call a wheeling of natural gas where you sign a contract with a company for what you think will be a

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savings. It doesn't impact any of the utilities that we would know by name: Ameren, AmerenCILCO, AmerenCIPS, Commonwealth Edison. It's the alternative retail gas suppliers, correct?"

Holbrook: "Correct. And it includes Nicor also, that's the big one up north."

Black: "Okay. And let me ask you a question. Some of these... and I just was looking at the analysis... some of these companies, however they do it, show up and say they have a contract with you. I had one of these in my district. And the individual said, I didn't sign any such contract. It's my understanding now the ICC will adjudicate that in the case of an alternative retail supplier saying, well, you signed up for our contract. And the consumer or the company says, no, I didn't. I didn't sign any such contract."

Holbrook: "Correct. And the... the..."

Black: "We later found out they signed something at a mall."

Holbrook: "Correct. And if it is fraud, even the Attorney General could be involved in it, too. But yes, to answer your question, yes."

Black: "All right. And there would be... would there be opportunities, I assume, for the person who felt they were entered into this contract illegally or without their due process rights could recover, I would assume."

Holbrook: "Correct."

Black: "All right. Thank you very much."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Holbrook to close."

Holbrook: "I ask for an 'aye' vote."

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Speaker Madigan: "The question is, 'Shall this Bill pass?' Those in favor signify by voting 'yes'; those opposed by voting 'no'. Have all voted who wish? Mr. Mitchell. The Clerk shall take the record. On this question, there are 113 people voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. This Bill, having received a Constitutional Majority, is hereby declared passed. Mr. Lyons in the Chair."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, on page 4 of the Calendar, under the Order of Resolutions, Representative Pritchard, you have House Resolution 1499. Representative Bob Pritchard on House Resolution 1499."

Pritchard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'm not bringing a Resolution forward asking for an unfunded mandate or to turn over some other issues that have been relevant. What we're trying to do is to continue a policy we've had in this state and across the country in limiting underage drivers, or young people, from consuming alcohol. In 1963, the minimum age for consuming beer and wine was set at twenty-one (21). In 1973, it rolled back to the age of 19 and several studies found that there was a significant increase in auto crashes among teens at that early age. So, that in 1984 there was a uniform drinking age Act passed that concerned teens who would drive in neighboring states and therefore, we needed a uniform age at which young people could drive. That legislation will be coming up for renewal this year in 2009 and already a number of university presidents have already come forward supporting what's called the Amethyst Initiative to lower the drinking age to eighteen (18).

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Ladies and Gentlemen, there are countless studies, well over thirty (30), that promote the fact that having the drinking age at twenty-one (21) has reduced significantly the number of fatalities of young people driving drunk. I would ask for your support in renewing this initiative of keeping the drinking age at twenty-one (21) and thereby, saving lives. I would ask for your support on this Resolution."

Speaker Lyons: "Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question... all those in favor of adoption of Resolution 1499 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And House Resolution 1499 is adopted. On page 4 of the Calendar, Representative LaShawn Ford, you have House Resolution 1652."

Ford: "Thank you, Mr..."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Ford."

Ford: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. House Resolution 1652 is very fitting for today when Congress is wondering what they should do with the remaining three hundred and fifty billion dollars (\$350,000,000,000) for the economy. House Resolution urges Congress to establish a small business recession rescue task force to prepare funds for small businesses in the State of Illinois and across the country. And I ask that everyone supports this effort. Ask for 'aye' votes."

Speaker Lyons: "Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, all those in favor of the adoption of House Resolution 1652 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say

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'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And House Resolution 1652 is adopted. On page 4 of the Calendar under the Order of Resolutions, Representative Bill Mitchell, you have Senate Joint Resolution 55."

Mitchell, B.: "Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Bill Mitchell."

Mitchell, B.: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr... thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, Senate Joint Resolution 55 would designate Route 122 between Delavan, Illinois and Stanford for Ron W. Gebur Memorial Highway. Mr. Gebur was killed in Iraq in 2006 and his family thinks this is a... a good idea and the people of Tazewell County think it's a good idea. And I would like to have the House pass it to honor Mr. Gebur's service to his country."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Bond, Representative Ron Stephens."

Stephens: "Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I... To the Resolution. I've spoken to this family and it is with regret that I rise in opposition to this Resolution. I... I will not request a... a voice vote is just fine with me. However, I want the Body to understand that you would think a memorial to a soldier who was killed is appropriate, but one of the things that I believe in very strongly is that we should recognize every veteran and not just single out a few because they might have political influence. And for that reason I would suggest that we name this Veterans Parkway or... in honor of all veterans and put a commemorative sign with this soldier's name. Those of you who have been around awhile know that I... I would never



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    speak against veterans' issues and never demean the character or the memory of a veteran, but I think it's more appropriate that any highway that is used by all the public is named in recognition of all veterans. With that, I... I'd like to be recorded as having voted 'no'."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from McLean, Representative Dan Brady."

Brady: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just stand in support of the Resolution as a cosponsor. The individual family, the mother of the decedent and the widow of the decedent live in my legislative district and I very much applaud the effort and stand in support of the Resolution to name this highway in Ron Gebur's memory."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mitchell to close."

Mitchell, B.: "Thank... thank you. I appreciate Representative Stephens's comments. I discussed this with the mother-in-law at his... is Mrs. Boswell is the one who is pursuing this and she preferred that it be named for her son-in-law and the people in Delavan would so also. So, that would be my preference and I certainly respect Representative Stephens's service to his country. That being said, I would urge the House to adopt this Resolution. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Seeing no further discussion, all those in favor of the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 55 signify by voting 'yes'; those opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this issue, there's 112 Members voting 'yes', 1 Member voting 'no'. And Senate Joint Resolution 55 is adopted."

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Continuing under the Order of Resolutions, Representative Munson, you have House Resolution 1214. Representative Ruth Munson."

Munson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. House Resolution 1214 requests the state to designate Route 20 within the Elgin city limits as Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Highway in honor of this visionary civil rights leader. The Elgin Human Relations Commission asked me to pursue this initiative, in particular, Commissioner Ina Dews who just happens to be the aunt of Representative Ford. I'm happy to answer any questions and respectfully ask for your 'aye' vote."

Speaker Lyons: "Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, the question is, all those in favor of the adoption of House Resolution 1214 signify by voting 'yes'; those opposed vote 'no'. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Mr. Clerk, take the record. On this Resolution, there's 113 Members voting 'yes', 0 voting 'no'. And House Resolution 1214 is adopted. Ladies and Gentlemen, we're going to proceed with some Agreed Resolutions and we would like to have your attention for these. We're going to start on the bottom of page 3 on the Calendar, under Agreed Resolutions, House Resolution 1674. The Chair recognizes the Lady from Lake, Representative JoAnn Osmond."

Osmond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On December 17, 2002, the Illinois General Assembly suffered the loss of two dynamic Members: Representative Doug Hoeft in the morning and Representative and my husband, Tim Osmond, that evening.

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With their deaths, the district did their search and I was sworn in on December 27 and Representative Ruth Munson was sworn in on December 30. I would like to point out that on more than one occasion in the past six (6) years I have mentioned my seniority status of three (3) days and the fact that my license plate would always be one number lower. We both felt our ways through the first year with the guidance of Leader Cross and courtesy of Speaker Madigan. We decided the second year that we would share a home and become roommates and have been for the past five (5) years. When we moved in, we discovered that we both owned Phil Austin paintings of the waterfront in Waukegan, both had been raised and educated in Waukegan and had many of the same friends and acquaintances. Ruth's vision and passion for women's issues gave birth to the Republican women's voices and drew the Republican women Legislators closer into a family setting. Ruth's vision for making Illinois and the Members of the Illinois General Assembly more aware of the problems evolving with the manufacturers of our state, she started the Illinois Manufacturing Caucus. This caucus is one of the first of its kind which we all owe a thank you to Ruth. You may know that Ruth carries a black and red backpack which holds her computer. Now, some of you would call her a computer geek, but I call her a wealth of knowledge of cyberspace. She has brought things back that I have sent to nowhere with only a click of her... of her computer. Even though her time in the General Assembly starts with an intermission tomorrow, I believe her book is just a new chapter for the women of

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vision. Representative Ruth Munson has done what so many of us attempt to do while we are down here. She has made a difference. I'm very proud to call her my roommate and my friend. Congratulations."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from DuPage, Representative Sandy Pihos."

Pihos: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen in the House. Since 2003, Representative Ruth Munson has served the Elgin area with honor and distinction. I am proud to recognize her and the great work she has done in her six (6) years here in the Illinois House of Representatives. Representative Munson has proven her dedication to making her district and all the State of Illinois a better place to live and do business. She has brought unique insight and deep passion to her office and has made a profound difference to the people that she has served. Her contributions during her time in the General Assembly have left a lasting, positive impact on the community she represents. Representative Munson brought a unique set of skills to the General Assembly. Her knowledge and expertise in technology has allowed her to make an incredible impact on the Illinois House Computer Technology Committee. Understanding the plight of small business owners led her to form the Illinois Manufacturing Caucus which has won support from all of the Legislators right here in this Body and is making a huge difference for business here in Illinois. Yet, Representative Munson has truly distinguished herself on many quality of life issues that have been important to the residents of her district.

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She has championed causes that are close to her heart. Her work to help create fast-growth grants for school districts with rapidly expanding enrollment has proved indispensable in helping many suburban school districts cope with booming populations. She became a leader on crime issues sponsoring numerous pieces of legislation to protect families from the problems of gang crime. Her work on protecting children from Internet predators and citizens from identity theft is equally as impressive. In short, Ruth Munson has become a true legislative champion for the residents of her district and is always invited and encouraged members of her community to join in discussions of issues, problems and possible solutions. The impact she's made will be felt for many years to come. She's excelled as a Legislator and as an advocate in her seven (7) years of dedicated service here in the General Assembly. Please join me in thanking Representative Ruth Munson for her outstanding contributions. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Rosemary Mulligan."

Mulligan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that your seatmate is always a special person and Ruth has been my seatmate from the very beginning. When I was supposed to champion her and try to get her up to speed in what was going on and of course, I missed Doug because he'd been from my class, but Ruth was a really good addition. And very shortly she was more up to speed and she was always very careful about my switch when I'd be away at meetings or anything and so, I'm going to miss her. She.. you could

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always count on her as far as show me your iPod or show me why this isn't working. We're going to really, really miss that, but we really know that people that win and lose here aren't always fair. The best people aren't always the ones that are here. Sometimes they leave for others and best of reasons. Quite frankly, I think her loss will be felt. She's one of the brighter, younger people in our General Assembly here who comes up with great ideas for her area, some that other people in that area won't be able to do only she champions everyone. She served more than one term on Human Service-Appropriations that rates her a gold star in my book because most people don't want to sit there and listen let alone work on the issues that actually bring home money to their area or work for people in a bipartisan way so that they're served well. I'll miss Ruth a lot because she's my seatmate, but I think we're all going to miss her and the people she serves are going to miss her because she cared about them, she did a good job and she's one of the people that deserves to be here, an honest, ethical person with great ideas, a young person that deserves to be in this General Assembly."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair would like to recognize the Gentleman from DeKalb, Representative Bob Pritchard."

Pritchard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise to add congratulations for the years of service that Ruth Munson has brought to this chamber. All of us have memories of Ruth and her passion for a number of issues that affected her district and how she has been the best example of what a Representative should be in this

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Body. I think we all have concerns for some of the issues that she championed, whether it's making Illinois more competitive in the broadband and information technology area, whether it's trying to save the businesses we have in the manufacturing area and how her district has noticed so many of those changes over the past decade or so. How she has championed the biotechnology area and clearly as Illinois looks to be competitive in a global marketplace, biotechnology is one of those areas where we do have a competitive advantage, where we do have close to a thousand companies engaged in various biotechnology from medical efforts to agricultural and how from Chicago to southern Illinois our land grant and other universities are engaged in revolutionary biotechnology research. This is an area that we must continue. All of us will have memories of Ruth as she leaves this Body. Fortunately, I understand she will be standing by the rail next Session to deal with some of these issues that she has been passionate about and I look forward to her information and sharing in that area. And I hope that somewhere along the rail there'll be room for those little candies known as Baby Ruth's that she can help give us some memory of what our jobs are all about and how we are to represent our district with a passion and the vigor and the courage that she has over these last years of her service. Thank you, Ruth, for being here. Thank you for setting a good role model and championing so many important issues to Illinois."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Jackson, Representative Mike Bost."

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Bost: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the House, about six (6) years ago my housemate Doug Hoeft, when we lost him I didn't know how he could possibly be replaced. And as time goes on and you watch different people come in and out of this House, I heard about this person that was going to be appointed to Doug's seat and I also lived with her Senator at the time who said, now, you keep an eye on Ruth when she comes into the General Assembly and just help her where you need. Ladies and Gentlemen, it didn't take me long to realize that she didn't need help. She's well aware of the circumstances of her district and the circumstances of the State of Illinois. Ruth has served the State of Illinois very, very well. She has been respected by her colleagues and by her friends, by her district. She became my officemate and I'm used to coming in early in the morning and see her working diligently on her computer dealing with her constituents and dealing with the issues that we face in this House and starting early, she's one of the early risers. She will be terribly missed in this House, terribly missed by her friends, terribly missed by her colleagues. I am looking forward to her working along the rail and helping us with other issues and keeping her knowledge present. But I really do hope that her district understands what a great loss it is to them not having her as a State Representative. We love her and we'll miss her in this Body, but we know she'll still be around here."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Grundy, Representative Careen Gordon."



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Gordon: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Munson, I do want to know that there is a voice on the other side of the aisle who will miss you, as well. Representative Dugan and I want to recognize your hard work on one of the issues that we continue to work on with the mobile home parks. And while we continue to push and push and push, it is still an issue that is out there, but I want you to know that the constituents in our district, whenever that issue came up we would say we have someone in Springfield who is pushing this issue and so the constituents in our district knew your name, as well. And I would say, Representative Ruth Munson is working on this issue and they would say, but that's a Republican Representative and I said, yes. I said, but she is our friend and she's working on this issue and we're working together and we'll continue to work on that for you because we know how important it is to the senior citizens of the state and how important it was to you and how much hard work that you put into it. Representative Munson, would also appear in front of the Criminal Law Committee every once in a while and if something wasn't quite right with one of the Bills, I would always want to thank her for coming to the Members of that committee and saying, how can I make this better, how can I change this and how can I make this right to make it the best piece of legislation possible so that she would know that when that Bill passed into law it would do exactly what she wanted it to do because she was a very good Legislator... she is a very good Legislator... and she wanted to make sure that when she passed that legislation it would

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accomplish the goal that she was trying to accomplish. So, we will miss her on this side of the aisle, as well. Representative Dugan and I, we consider you our friend and we will miss you because the issues that are important to you are also important to us and we will continue to work on those issues for you and that's a promise, from me, from my friend, Representative Dugan, and from all of our constituents in the 79th and the 75th District. So thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Morgan, Representative Jim Watson."

Watson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to add my thanks to Ruth. You know, the last three (3) or four (4) weeks we've seen the worst that Illinois politics has to offer, but for the last six (6) years, unfortunately, the public sometime doesn't get to see the good that resides in this Body. And I think we'll long be remembered more for how we treat people than for some of our legislative accomplishments and Ruth, you're always there with a smile on your face and sometimes out of the blue when I was seven thousand (7,000) miles away from home I would get a nice e-mail just checking in and that's the kind of person you are, that's what we will miss in this Body. So, thanks for being you."

Speaker Lyons: "Recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Debbie Graham."

Graham: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Munson, a couple years ago, I'd say in 2006, we honored our now laid to rest Representative Younge and Ruth came to us with this

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great idea of this presentation and we're like, yeah, that'd be a great idea, you know, to run a slide show regarding our honoree. And without mincing words, without saying anything, oh, I think I'll do it, I might have a chance to do it or I'll think it over, she jumped on that project and really laid it out and I mean, she put together the project in such a historical fashion with the photographs, I want to say that Representative Turner got the photographs for us to put into this piece. But as we laid Representative Younge to rest last week, I was sitting there saying, we could have had that slide show that Ruth put together for her which would have been a great addition, icing on the cake, to her sendoff. Ruth is my classmate. When came in together, I think that we were a bunch of people who were saying this is the first day of school. This is an environment that none of us knew anything about and as tough as we were trying to be, this is a nervous place to be in and it's a hard place to fit yourself into. But I say that, Representative, you've done a great job in just adjusting to being here with us and I'm sure that... They tell me once you leave this place that all sorts of doors and opportunities opening up for you. And although I know today may be one of the toughest days that you'll ever face here, but I tell you, you'll come back and we'll say that you were a rocket scientist and that you got out of this place and had all this humongous stress and you come back and tell us about all the great things that you're venturing out to do. And you're such a sweet spirit and I thank God for the opportunity to have worked with you

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and to travel this path, this short distance, with you. I wish you well and I'm just excited to hear about all the new opportunities and all the other wonderful technology pieces that you'll work on. So, thank you, thank you, thank you. Bless you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Susana Mendoza."

Mendoza: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen, I just wanted to rise, too and echo the comments of my colleagues. And primarily, Ruth, thank you so much for all of your leadership and your championship, really, on the Republican side of the aisle on issues that are so important to myself, my constituents and the immigrant community in particular. You've been a real, true friend to us every step of the way. It breaks my heart that one of those votes was used against you during your race which really sickened me, but honest to God, I will forever be indebted to you for those votes. I mean, it took real leadership on your side of the aisle and from you in particular, and on behalf of myself and my constituents, thank you. On separate, to the actual voting, I just want to say that you've been a fabulous person to work with. You're a beautiful human being and I anticipate many, many years of a strong friendship between us. So, just know that it's been my honor to serve with you and I wish all the very best."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Lake, Representative Kathy Ryg."

Ryg: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my appreciation to Ruth for her friendship and leadership on

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issues. This has been a really impressive litany of all your accomplishments during your tenure here in the General Assembly. And I know it goes beyond our work here in Springfield because we had the opportunity to work together on afterschool initiatives that benefited not only our districts but our entire region and it was that bipartisan regional effort that really led to many of our successes. I also want to thank you for your leadership on establishing the Manufacturing Caucus because it was through your efforts that I was better able to respond to the businesses in my community and be better informed on the issues that were facing them and the way that we can mo... do a better job here in Illinois of promoting their businesses and maintaining them as successful entities in the state, something that's really critical for all of us in this climate. But also, I think I speak for all of the Members of COWL when I thank you for your technical advice and direction, our shows would not have been nearly as sophisticated as they were because of your bringing your behind the scenes computer technology expertise to the Capitol Capers program. And so, I want to extend an invitation, we know that you'll still be working with us, we look forward to having access to your expertise in a new role, but we want to make sure that you know that there will be an alumni group for the Capitol Capers program and we would love to have you and even though you're reluctant, you could be on the stage this time instead of behind. So, thank you again for everything especially, again, your friendship and leadership. It's meant significant things

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not only for us as individuals, but impact far beyond what I think we even know. Best wishes."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Bob Biggins."

Biggins: "Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And echo the comments of my colleagues regarding, as Deborah Graham so aptly put it, Ruth's generosity in the sharing of her talent to put the other Members of, not only our caucus, but the other side of the aisle. She's extremely talented on things that we all aren't talented on and it's been wonderful to work with her and to watch her as she works from... worked on behalf of her constituents."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Champaign, Representative Chapin Rose."

Rose: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my friend, Ruth, and there's a few accomplishments here that haven't been listed and I'll just highlight one. You were the first to bring WIFI to the Stratton Building. It was an unsanctioned WIFI that eventually was found out and removed, but for a brief moment the Illinois House of Representatives was brought into the 21st century and I was glad to be on your WIFI network for that little tiny time before we were found out. But I thank you for always being there to help me with my computer, Ruth, and for your friendship. On a professional note, you've been an outstanding Member of this House of Representatives. Your, frankly, ingenuity measured with your energy has been unparalleled and in short, we need more Members like Ruth Munson and not less. So, good luck to you, Ruth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

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Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Brown, Representative Jil Tracy."

Tracy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. New Legislators will sorely miss having Ruth Munson as a role model in trying to develop a sense of what we do and how we do it. I know, myself, when I began over at the Old State Capitol in Session over there that I immediately tried to get a sense of what our role should be and how to conduct ourselves and immediately, I found Ruth Munson to be that role model: her supreme work ethic, her professionalism, her insightful and thoughtful consideration, always striving to another level of excellence, never being satisfied with the status quo. I echo the sentiments that it's an extreme loss for the people in her district and the people of the State of Illinois to no longer have Ruth Munson serving in the House of Representatives, but I congratulate her on a job well done and I know that her talents will carry her and continue to have her serve the people in her best capacity. Congratulations, Ruth."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Connie Howard."

Howard: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Ruth, everything that everyone has said is true. You are a sweetheart and I'll miss your smiling face and beautiful attitude. However, more than anything else, I'll miss the contribution that you've made to the Computer Technology Committee and of course, I am the chair of the Computer Technology Committee. I always tell people that I have an interest in technology, but you, Ruthie, are an expert in the area. And so, I had to lean on you much of the time

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and depended on you to assist me. Thank you for making me look good and I certainly will miss your invaluable contribution, thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Cynthia Soto."

Soto: "Ruth... Thank you, Speaker. Ruth, thank you for being here, thank you for being such a good person. I want to also thank your family for also allowing you to be here. And again, I echo on everything that everyone said because it's all true. And thank you for being on the right side when it comes to immigration issues because you, in your heart, know that, you know, they're good people. So, again, thank you for all you do and good luck in the future. Good luck to you and to your family. God bless you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Will Davis."

Davis, W.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to add my name to the list of those recognizing the accomplishments of my colleague, Ruth Munson. I want to thank her for her efforts on behalf of manufacturers. Here in the State of Illinois, a couple of years ago, she started a Manufacturing Caucus that I became a part of. And if nothing else, just trying to bring to light and bring to our attention some of the issues that manufacturers throughout the State of Illinois are faced with. Particularly in these tougher economic times, we know that business and industry is suffering tremendously and we know it's important to be able to acknowledge and to recognize



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when our... when segments of our society, segments of our state, are having trouble and she just wanted to bring those issues to light. I had the pleasure of going to Carpentersville a couple of years ago and meeting and spending a day with one of her manufacturers and just trying to get an understanding, from a gentleman who had a very successful business and it was very helpful to have had that opportunity to go there. So, I appreciate her efforts on behalf of manufacturers and it's quite obvious that we will continue this Manufacturing Caucus, particularly in your honor, Ruth, to let you know that what you started was serious and that we take it to be serious. So, thank you very much and I appreciate the opportunity to having worked with you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say to you I really appreciated your spirit. You were always extremely attentive, deliberative, and in committee you were a participant. And I hope wherever you choose to go and whatever endeavor you choose, you'll take that wonderful spirit that you brought to this Body. It was a pleasure working with you, Ruth, and I pray that you and your family will continue to enjoy the spirit that you bring to this place. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Crawford, Representative Roger Eddy."

Eddy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make sure I had the opportunity also to... to congratulate Ruth on her

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service to her constituents and in a broader sense, the people of the state, because her work really went beyond her constituency to affect the public policy in the State of Illinois and I think that doesn't happen all the time with people that come to Springfield. She's certainly, as the comments have indicated, a unique combination of intelligence, integrity, service and caring that this Body will miss and she also is able to provide us with a technology insight that really will be missed as much as anything else. And I'm glad to hear that she's going to be around and I do pledge to her that I will improve my texting skills, especially in an effort to find the right keys in the right sequence at the right time. Good luck to you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Dennis Reboletti."

Reboletti: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Ruth, it's a very sad day for us to see you leaving us, but I don't think your career in public service is over quite yet. I'm sure you'll find your way back into some forum. But what I'd like to thank you for is your contribution to public safety in the State of Illinois. We've heard quite a bit about the Manufacturing Caucus and about technology, but you came before a JUD II, which probably was one of the more difficult committees to come with... to come to and had some very difficult issues and you always were prepared. You always thought about the public safety issues that were in your community, as I know you and I have dealt with the gang issues on numerous occasions and I thank you and the

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people of the State of Illinois thank you for that. And good luck to you in your future."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from... the Gentleman from McLean, Representative Dan Brady."

Brady: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ruth, I, too, just want to join in with the grey-haired guys club behind you here and wish you the best, Godspeed. You have been an individual with compassion, kindness and consideration for others which we need a lot more around this place. We'll miss you, but I know you'll be back. We look forward to working in the future together on many, many initiatives that you've started here. God bless."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from DuPage, Representative Patti Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly. We've all talked about how wonderful Ruth is. She has so many wonderful things about her regarding everything that she's done with computers and everything else, but I think the most that Ruth has been the best at and that we all appreciate is your district. I've never seen a Legislator who worked as hard for the people of her district and was so compassionate about their issues. So, we thank you, Ruth and I wish you the best of everything. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Seeing no further speakers, all those in favor of the passage of House... Representative Ruth Munson."

Munson: "Well, I wasn't going to say anything, but I... I was... I just couldn't leave with... without telling you how much your comments here on the floor today mean to me and your

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comments in private. I want to thank you for that. It's been amazing privilege to serve with... with all of you. We've served during some interesting times and whether you consider it a curse or a blessing it's a bond that ties us together here today and... and in the history books. And so, I want to let you know how much I appreciate this opportunity, how grateful I am for your help with legislation, for your dedication to the state and your camaraderie and most important for... for the friendships that I've made here. It's been an honor. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "We got to formally do this, Ladies and Gentlemen. All those in favor of the adoption of House Resolution 1674 signify by saying 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have unanimously adopted House Resolution 1674. God bless you, good luck and all the best in the future, Representative Munson. We'll get back to the Agreed Re... to the congratulatory Resolutions, but Mr. Clerk, let's do the regular Agreed Resolutions."

Clerk Bolin: "Agreed Resolutions. House Resolution 1367, offered by Representative Rose. House Resolution 1679, offered by Representative Munson. House Resolution 1680, offered by Representative Smith. House Resolution 1681, offered by Representative Cole. House Resolution 1682, and 1683, offered by Representative Currie. House Resolution 1684, offered by Representative Reboletti. House Resolution 1685, offered by Representative Sacia. House Resolution 1686, offered by Representative Myers. House Resolution 1687, offered by Representative Lyons. House

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Resolution 1688, offered by Representative Mautino. House  
Resolution 1689, offered by Representative Lang. House  
Resolution 1690, offered by Representative Howard. House  
Resolution 1691, offered by Representative Hannig. And  
House Resolution 1692, offered by Representative Currie."

Speaker Lyons: "All those in favor of the Agreed.. Agreed  
Resolu... adoption of the Agreed Resolutions signify by  
saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of  
the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And the Agreed Resolutions  
are passed. The Chair would like to recognize former  
assistant Republican Leader and friend to everybody on this  
floor, welcome home Representative Eileen Lyons. Good to  
see you on the floor. Ladies and Gentlemen, back to the  
Agreed Resolutions on page 3, the congratulatory  
Resolutions is House Resolution 1669. Mr. Clerk. And the  
Chair recognizes Representative Tim Schmitz."

Schmitz: "Thank you, Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the  
House. This Resolution's honoring my seatmate, Joe Dunn.  
Joe and I had a lot of things in common when he came here  
in 2002. He went through one heck of a tough Primary,  
we're about the same age and neither of us were endorsed by  
our respective Parties when we were first running for  
office. Joe came here the right way, he pounded on doors,  
he went to the forums and he spoke his mind on the district  
and he served ably here for the last six (6) years since  
2002. During Joe's time here in the Illinois House, he's  
gone through a period of the Legislature that few of us  
have seen, difficult times here in the House with Special  
Sessions, tough budgets and trying to handle this with his

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young children back at home. So, as I was disappointed when Joe told us that he was going to retire from the House after three (3) terms, we enjoyed his company here. We look for his knowledge, as many of you may know or you may not know, Joe has his masters and he's also a CPA. So, his knowledge on financial issues in our caucus was something that we always valued. But Joe's leaving on to a new chapter right now and I'm envious of him because he came in here on his terms and when he announced his retirement, he's leaving on his terms. But as he goes back home, he knows that the six (6) years that he served here in the Illinois Legislature, the things that he accomplished for his district and the spark that he had to serve. He now goes back home to his roots and he will begin a new chapter where he finishes out a term on the Naperville City Council. I ask that you join me in congratulating Joe Dunn for his time served here and the thanks and... I know we weren't supposed to say anything where we could roast him, but he's my seatmate and some of you colleagues on the Democrat side of the aisle, got Joe and I confused occasionally. We somewhat look alike. So, Joe's seat won't be sitting here anymore. I'll be here still. And if you want to come yell at me for a vote that was actually Joe's vote, you come chat with me now. But I... Joe I'm going to miss you and you did a great job for us. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from White County, Representative Brandon Phelps."

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Phelps: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Joe, I know that now is not the time to tell about stories, but I'll keep it brief. I just want to tell you it was an honor and a privilege to have served with you, but more than that it's an honor to call you my friend. And I wish you all the best and I wish you a lot of successful hunts, which I better be on a lot of those with you. But I know I don't need to talk for Eddie Sullivan, but Eddie, and Jim Riemer and I are really going to miss you, Joe. Good luck and God bless you. I love you, Joe. Thanks."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Debbie Graham."

Graham: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To Representative Dunn, it's been an honor to work with you, another one of my classmates, when I had some issues and you know we have to work both sides of the aisle. You were very forthright in everything that you had to say and you had very few conditions and I appreciate that. It's certainly been a privilege to work with you, to get to know you and again, being my classmate and all, I'm going to miss you down here. God bless."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from DuPage, Representative Mike Fortner."

Fortner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a Member just finishing up his first two (2) years in the House, I've come to appreciate one of the most important people that one needs to know and has to rely on is the person who shares the other half of one's Senate District and Joe, in the 96th District, is that person for me. And being able to watch

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how he has worked, how he has represented his communities and fought hard for his constituents in this Body, has been something that has helped me see the kind of role that I can play in the northern half of the Senate District that we both have shared these last two (2) years. So, Joe, I want to wish you a great future. You've done a great job here, at least the two (2) years that I've seen and by reputation, all six (6) of the years that you've been here and I wish you all of the best in your coming years. I know you've got great things ahead of you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Cook, Representative Will Davis."

Davis, W.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to take this opportunity to congratulate and wish my friend and colleague, Joe Dunn, well. Joe, many of us wish that we could leave this chamber the way you have, on your own terms, not because of a race or an election or anything like that, but because you decided that you've come down here, you've accomplished some things and now it's time for you to go and do other things. You got marriage, you had a baby and you want to spend that time with your family and I think all of us can appreciate you wanting to do that. And certainly I have stories probably a little like Brandon does about Joe. Many of you may or may not know that when we were freshmen or sophomores down here, we were able to travel to China together and I had a great time in China with a couple of our other colleagues. And if anybody wants to know the adult version of what happened, come see me afterwards, be more than happy to share it with you.



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But we had a great time in China, experienced some things and got to see another part of the world together and we just really, really had a great time and those are the types of memories that I certainly will take away from this time, being in the Legislature with you and having had the opportunity to work with you. I'm sure we'll probably look back on those times and laugh about those for years to come, especially when we were walking and I think it was Quanzhou Joe and we passed by a fast food restaurant and saw a cage with some cats sitting outside of it. You know, that kind of set the tone for the... kind of the entire trip at that point, but we had a great time together. Certainly going to miss you, enjoyed working with you and I wish you well and your family."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Morgan, Representative Jim Watson."

Watson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, Joe Dunn probably said one of the smartest things I've ever heard said on this floor and that was not every good idea needs to be a law. So, Joe, I hope we can carry on that wisdom in the years to come."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Will, Representative Renée Kosel."

Kosel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. When Joe first came down here, he sat in-between Sandy Pihos and I and for two (2) years he swore that that was just the best experience ever until he got an opportunity to change his seat and immediately moved over there. Everybody in this House brings something to us and

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in Joe is a wealth of experience, many of which we can't talk about on an open mike, but one of the best things is to watch him blush and you've all seen that. He can... I know of no one who can turn red quicker. You have... you have been a blessing to us. You have contributed and the very best to you in the future."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Rosemary Mulligan."

Mulligan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Joe is one of the brighter young guys down here, so it's always a shame to lose him, although he's leaving on his own. So, that's important. I didn't get to know Joe too well until we went to Israel and somebody said to me, can you tell us some stories about Israel. I just want Joe to know what happened in Israel stays in Israel."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Patricia Lindner."

Lindner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it seems like everybody's had a trip with Joe. But one of the most fun trips was Patti Bellock and Joe and I going on a road trip to the Rolling Stones concert. And we left at 5 in the afternoon and Patti drove us back at 3 in the morning. But it was really a fun concert and I'll reiterate what Rosemary said, what goes on at the Rolling Stones concert stays at the Rolling Stones concert."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Susana Mendoza."

Mendoza: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to join the fray until everybody else started talking about their trips with Joe and I, too, took a trip with Joe to beautiful

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Mexico and what happens in Mexico is going on Rich Miller's blog very soon."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Jack Franks."

Franks: "Joe and I went to Canada and he claims he's a fisherman, but I don't think he was there for the fishing. No. Joe, I've never gotten up and said goodbye to a departing Member. I felt compelled to when everyone was talking about their trips. You're just a great guy, a lot of fun to be with and you have so much integrity, I just want you to know how much you're going to be missed and thanks for serving here."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Cook, Representative Sara Feigenholtz."

Feigenholtz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on some comments from my colleague Rosemary Mulligan. One thing that I can say about Joe Dunn is he's a great talent. He's the only guy I know who could find the only Irish pub in the City of Jerusalem."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Lake, Representative Karen May."

May: "Joe, I didn't go on a trip with you, but I'm beginning to wish I had. We wish you luck. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, Representative Joe Dunn."

Dunn: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It's really been an honor. It's been a wonderful six (6) years. You know, when you honored Ruth previously, you talked about the legislation she worked on, the committees she served and computers that she brought up-to-date here in the House and it sounded like my going away

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was a little different. Thank you for sharing those stories and the trips that we've taken and the other personal experiences that we've shared. And thank you very much for the stories that you didn't tell here on the House Floor today. It truly has been a wonderful experience. It's been an honor to serve with each of you. I wish that I was coming in and I got to redo these six (6) years. You're wonderful people. It's been a wonderful experience. I'm going to miss it greatly."

Speaker Lyons: "All those for the adoption of House Resolution 1669 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. By unanimous consent, House Resolution 1669 is hereby declared passed. Mr. Clerk, on page 3 of the Calendar, we have House Resolution 1670. The Chair recognizes Representative Don Moffitt."

Moffitt: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It's my privilege to make a few comments about Jim Meyer. Jim and I, we came in together after the '92 election in that class of '93 and we were the largest class on record for many decades and it's been a great experience. We continued to work together and for the last three (3) years, Jim and I have rented a house together and you... you get to know a person even better when you're sharing a house. And I can truly say after all that time, these sixteen (16) years that I've served with you, Jim, you truly came to Springfield for the right reasons, you stayed in Springfield for the right reasons. Alphabetically, I follow you in seniority, so I was always one number behind you on license plate; your car right now

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twenty-three (23) and mine twenty-four (24). So, I'll always think of... I move up an extra place. I wish that wasn't the case because of your retirement because I really hate to see you go. I don't know if Jim has shared this with the rest of you, but as a child out in Iowa, small town in Iowa, he would bike down to the local feed store because the mayor of the town operated that feed store. He wasn't even old enough to drive, but when they were having the town meeting, Jim would go down to watch it. It had a porch on this... this store and the mayor said, well, you can sit out here on the porch and listen to our town meeting and that's what Jim would do and really a dream of public service was born at that time. And Jim, you wanted to move on into that room and be a part of that town meeting. That was when the dream was born to have a career in public service. I just want to say it's been an honor to share with you, you living out your dream of getting to come into this big room and have a career of public service. You've been an excellent floor debate leader. You're a great family man. I hear... I've heard many times about your wife, your daughter, and your grandsons. And Jim, I will frequently think of you for being the champion of legislation dealing with road rage. I remember when you presented that Bill and started championing the cause that we needed legislation dealing with the issue of road rage. And I'll have to say, on the way in this morning, as I observed a car cut someone else off in front of me, I did watch for sign language between those two (2) drivers and I thought of you. But you did champion that cause, something

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that needed to be brought up. Jim Meyer, you've been about good government, you've been about fiscal responsibility, you have been an advocate for a good, strong local government. Jim, it's been an honor and a privilege to serve with you. You've set the bar very high on what it means to serve honorably and what it means to serve with integrity and honesty and truly Illinois is a better place. Jim, it's a better place because of your service here in the Legislature. A few years ago the American pilot was shot down, I believe it was over Bosnia, and his name was Captain Scott O'Grady and he survived several days, I think a week or so, evading the enemy and was eventually rescued. And a book was written about his service and being shot down and coming back and that book is called, Return with Honor. Jim Meyer, as you return to your district after eight (8) terms in the Illinois Legislature, you are returning with honor based on the record and the distinction with which you served. We came together as elected officials, we served together as colleagues and we leave today as friends. Jim, we'll all miss you. We thank you for your service. We wish you the very best in the next chapter of your life. Godspeed. Thank you very much, Jim Meyer."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Bond, Representative Ron Stephens."

Stephens: "Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I think of Jim Meyer, I remember quiet dignity of his demeanor. The... You know, I've worked on a lot of veterans' issues over the years and I want to recognize that Jim is a veteran. He

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wore the uniform of our country for four (4) years. Many times in my office, he would come to me and say, you know what, there's this Bill, Ron, you need to... you need to help me with this or help me with that. It might be somebody else's Bill, but he was quietly lobbying on behalf of those who had alongside Jim Meyer served their country. He was never boisterous about it, never seeking the spotlight, but like a good airman, a good soldier, you were always there. And for those of us who have worn the uniform, Jim, we could never say thank you enough and as for me, I will never forget you. God bless you and Godspeed."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Chapin Rose."

Rose: "Thank you. As a freshman here six (6) years ago, you look around the room and you... and you see, you know, who... who in this Body is it you can look up to that make sense when they speak. And Jim Meyer to some degree is almost like the E.F. Hutton guy, when he talks people listen. And Jim, you don't talk a whole lot, but when you do it makes sense. And I want to say how much I appreciate your guidance and counsel over the few years that I've been here. It's certainly not anywhere near what you have. More to the point, your quiet way has changed this Body for the better and your advancement of legislation for the people in your district, all the different Bills I've watched you put forward has made our state a better place. Now, before I get too sappy, I need to remind the Body there's something about Jim Meyer that they may not know and that is that Jim Meyer played football for the great University of Iowa. And if I would remind Jim Meyer,

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before he gets too far down the road, that the University of Illinois beat Iowa in football this year. So, with that, Jim, I hope that... and you and I have talked a number of times about how much you're looking forward to retirement with your wife and taking the trips that you've told me about and Godspeed and I hope it's everything you want it to be. So, thank you, Jim."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Lee, Representative Jerry Mitchell."

Mitchell, J.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jim and I became officemates this last term and it's been very, very enjoyable serving with Jim on the sixth floor. We've had several conversations about various parts of education that are frustrating to him, frustrating to me. Some want the need for performance pay, some want the need for education excellence in this area and Jim's daughter teaches and... and so, he had a strong concern about the... the way Illinois education was moving or not moving was more in our thoughts. Wasn't able to solve those things, but we had a lot of good, philosophical arguments and I think education is a lot like the legislation, its changes come very, very slowly and it's pretty frustrating to try to make those kind of changes. Jim, I think performance pay is one thing that we may see before we leave this mortal coil. I'm hoping that... that both the IEA, the IFT and the Chicago Teachers Union will take a good look at performance pay because I think it would do a lot to improve education in Illinois. I wish you Godspeed. I wish you many, many happy years with your family. And can I go... come over and



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take a look at your office furniture and pick out anything I want to move across? Would that be okay? Okay. Good to know you, Jim. Congratulations. Godspeed."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Bob Biggins."

Biggins: "Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My friend, Jim and I have spent many meals... had many meals together and participated helping in the COWL show together as Jim donated his skills every year there's been a show and he's shown up. And he's been a very good friend, loyal to all of us. And we'll see him from time to time. We're going to miss working with him. There's only one thing that I had a difference with him about and that was his road rage Bill. Now, I hope... now, that you're gone, I hope we're done with road rage Bills. But I don't want anybody in here to bring up another one 'cause I'd be... I'm not going to get too upset about it, but you'd take that Bill and we're never going to see that again. Other than that, you've been fine. Thanks."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Patti Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Members of the General Assembly. I rise to thank Jim. Jim is my district... to the other half of my district. So, I've never taken a trip with Jim, but I've been to one thousand five hundred (1,500) events with Jim all through DuPage County. And he has just been an outstanding Legislator and just like some of the other people have said, I would describe Jim as a quiet man. He grew up in a small farm town in Iowa, but a man of few words, but when he has the words to say, they're strong words and he makes an impact. And you

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have made an impact down here with all of us, Jim. And your legislation dealing with foster children and joining the group of all of us who wanted to change the child support system in Illinois, you really shook up that system a couple of years ago and made it much, much better. We thank you all for everything you've done. You're a wonderful family man. You've been a wonderful Legislator. You have a wonderful wife, Bonnie, grandchildren. You're everything... you're respected by everybody in this General Assembly. And we just want to thank you here today, give you all of our well wishes for a happy, healthy life in the future and enjoyment in your retirement. And the one thing everybody may not know about Jim is his favorite thing is a pie. So, if you want to give him a sendoff, send him a pie. Thank you very much."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Sid Mathias."

Mathias: "Thank you. I also would like to stand and say a few kind words about Jim. Most of us learn about each other from the things that we say in committee and say on the House Floor, but Jim is a very, as was said, a very soft-spoken, quiet person. I have learned a lot from him just by the numerous dinners that we've gone out together and just for me listening to really to good Illinois... good public policy in Illinois. And I've learned a lot of that from Jim and I admire him. I... He was one of the... in our... I've had a few contested races, one just recently, some contested Primaries and even though Jim is not in a neighboring district of mine, he always came down to my district to walk for me and I always am eternally grateful

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for that, especially in those hotly contested races when you need people to... to... not only to come and just walk, but actually to knock on doors and to talk to people and tell them the reasons why someone should be reelected and I always appreciate that. I appreciate all the dinners we had together, all the knowledge that I've learned from Jim. And again, I think, it is always better to go out on your own terms which sometimes in this business we can't do, but fortunately for Jim, because of the respect that he has in his district, he doesn't have to worry about... about any contested election. So, it has been a pleasure in all the years that I've been here now, ten (10) years, to serve with you and to learn with you. And Godspeed and have a great, great retirement."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Randy Ramey."

Ramey: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen, when I was appointed to this seat three and a half years ago, Leader Cross found the wisdom to set me by Representative Meyer which I... I appreciate dearly. When I first came in and Jim was sitting here, he looks over at me and goes, you're Senator Philip's stepson, aren't you? I said, yes, I am. He goes, let me tell you a story about Pate and I think many of you across the aisle can understand his problems with the fine Senator from DuPage County in that one of his Bills was killed and... but then Jim worked it and he got it called and passed his piece of legislation. And you know, for the little over a year I got to sit next to Jim, got to talk with him, learn things and you know, I came down here knowing many things, but learned many more

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sitting with you, Jim and I certainly appreciate that. And I think one great piece of wisdom that he taught me and I will keep with me forever is that when Raymond Poe's butter cake is served, you take two (2) pieces. Jim, thank you very much for your time and efforts and I appreciate your wisdom. Thank... Have a good day."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Franco Coladipietro."

Coladipietro: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Jim, I just simply want to say thank you for being a friend and a mentor to me during my first two (2) years here in the General Assembly. I couldn't have asked for a better seatmate. And while you may not miss all of the incessant and annoying questions that I ask you, I will surely miss your advice and your counsel. And I just want to congratulate you on a distinguished career. And I know this is not goodbye 'cause we'll see each other back in DuPage County."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Al Riley."

Riley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jim Meyer, I wonder what are you going to do with that University of Iowa lanyard? When I... when I came down, you know, I had... had done some analysis of different Bills in committees and so forth and I remember walking down the hall right here in the Capitol and all of a sudden this big hand, you know, comes over and grabs me on the shoulder and gives me a compliment for, I don't know, some of the analysis that I had done on some Bills and it was Jim. And I really appreciated that because, you know, you didn't have to do that to a back bencher, but he did. That's the character of the man."

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Just a great guy, very concerned about his district, but not only his district, the entire state. It was really good knowing you, Jim and I just want to say that... that I'm going to miss you. I think you're a tremendous guy, but one other thing I want to say, if you have some tickets to the University of Iowa game, remember my... my office."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes Representative Paul Froehlich."

Froehlich: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've already heard that Jim Meyer is very generous sharing his experience and wisdom and I, too, benefited from that my first couple of terms. Matter of fact, Jim would often share his experience in great detail to us over... over many dinners. I think it's fair to say, Jim is a... has served as a very conscientious Legislator, always a gentleman, open-minded and somebody who's a credit to this institution and whose service will be missed."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from McDonough, Representative Rich Myers."

Myers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jim, I'm going to miss you. I don't know if you remember or not, but when I first came down here under the wings of Representative Art Tenhouse, at the time, you were one of the first people that I met, one of the first people that Art introduced me to. You offered me words of encouragement and words of advice at that time and I greatly appreciate that, greatly appreciate your help over the years. And I think you and I certainly came to know each other a little bit better about eight (8) years ago when my daughter went to school at the University

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of Iowa and you got... you and I got to talking about your experiences in Iowa and we developed more of a common bond then, in addition to our somewhat similar names. I'm going to have to break in a new caucus seatmate now. While we don't sit together on the floor, at least in caucus, what I didn't catch, you caught and what you didn't catch, I caught and so I think we helped each other out there. But I have to say that after our experience of when you were across the hall from me in the Stratton Building on the second floor, I'm glad that you moved to sixth floor here. And now that you're going to be leaving, and I regret that you're going to be leaving, but maybe now people will understand my name. I think it was alluded to earlier, there is a lot of confusion between my name and your name. You get pluralized and I get singularized. It's always Meyer and Myers and it's... it seems like they never get the right one straight. Jim Meyer, M-e-y-e-r, we're going to miss you. And it's been a pleasure having you in the House and a pleasure knowing you over these years and God bless you and we wish you the best of luck."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Rock Island, Representative Mike Boland."

Boland: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A lot of people have talked about Jim's University of Iowa career, but Jim and I both attended and graduated from a small private college, about seven hundred and fifty (750) students I think it was at its peak, and unlike many schools where physics or math are the toughest disciplines, actually poly sci, political science was one of the toughest disciplines at that school,

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maybe the toughest. We had a very hard-nosed Marine Corps colonel professor and... so, you had to work extremely hard to even make a B in that class and Jim was really one of the hardest working students in that class. He was a very scholarly student and one of the real leaders in the... in that college. And we graduated, I won't say when even because we don't want to age ourselves here, but we went our separate ways and strange as it may seem, both being Iowa boys, both sometimes say, you can take the boy out of Iowa but you can't take Iowa out of the boy, and Jim and I are alike in that... in that way. And we went our separate ways and then decades later, I'm... I had been elected to the House here and I hadn't yet come to the floor or been sworn in or anything, and I was going through this, you know, the Blue Book or something like that... I can't remember what exactly it was... and it said, State Representative Jim Meyer. And I'm like, could that be the same Jim Meyer? No, that couldn't be. You know, he's probably off in West Branch, Iowa or someplace, you know, where he had lived. And lo and behold, of course, came here and saw it and we've often remarked how strange it is or unusual it is that two (2) people from a very small college in Iowa would end up in the Illinois House of Representatives. And Jim, having had a stellar career here, he has continued that same personality, that same values, that were instilled by him by our professor, instilled by that professor to all of us, those ideas of honor, personal integrity, scholarship and very hard work. And Jim, you and I have talked. We both happened to have married Italian-American women. We

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have that in common as well as our Iowa background and of course, we both love to take cruises and we've often talked about when I end my career we're going to get together, our families and we're going to take that 'round the world cruise. And I look forward to it. And Jim, I wish you all the best. You're a great, great, not only State Legislator, but I am so proud to say as a friend that you really epitomize the best of what Upper Iowa had graduated. Thanks again, Jim, and good luck to you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Ken Dunkin."

Dunkin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to share the sentiments... the positive experiences that I've had with you, Jim. Somehow every time I'd go in that direction, in that particular corner, you were always there. But we had a number of interesting conversations. Thanks for educating someone like myself about sort of essential part of our state or at least around the Bolingbrook area and giving perspective on just your part of the world. City folk like me need to keep listening to individuals such as yourself so we all can grow and make the state better for citizens here in the State of Illinois. Thank you. We'll miss you. And I'm sure you'll be around. God bless."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Dennis Reboletti."

Reboletti: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And since my dear Italian-American friend down there, Representative Coladipietro, spoke I feel obligated to speak also. He doesn't rise very much, but he knows when it's very important and this is a good reason. Representative Meyer, from the day I got here



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made sure that I found my way around, that I knew where to go and that I knew the reason I was here was to represent the people of my district and people of DuPage County. And having replaced somebody that had been here for a long time and was a very integral part of State Government. It's difficult to replace that person and I hope that you're successor is listening right now, because he has absolutely big shoes to fill to fill the role of the statesman that you are for your district with the people of DuPage County. It's been an honor to serve with you and look forward to working with you in the future for the people of DuPage County."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Boone, Representative Ron Wait."

Wait: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Yeah. It's been a pleasure to serve with you, Jim. We... actually, it was Rich Myers, Bob Biggins, and Moffitt and myself. We took Jim out last night and yeah, we even bought it, Alexander's. Had a good time to visit. One thing I do have in common with Jim, as you know, he grew up in Iowa and went to the University of Iowa while I went to Drake in Des Moines, Iowa, for seven (7) years. So, we do have a lot in common. I think, one thing, if you go to school in Iowa you learn a lot of common sense and that's what I saw here with Jim that he does use common sense. He's very passionate on Bills that he did support and it's been a real pleasure, Jim, to work with you. And we... even stayed at the cheap places like the Red Roof Inn and

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anyway, I just want to wish you the best of luck, Jim and may God bless you. Thank you very much."

Speaker Lyons: "The Gentleman from Peoria, Representative David Leitch."

Leitch: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my word of respect and friendship for Jim Meyer. Jim, you have just been an outstanding State Representative, you've been such a good friend to so many of us. You truly will be missed. I've admired your work in the caucus and your leadership on the floor and I, for one, regret that you will not be with us and have enjoyed every minute of working with you. So, thank you, Jim, for your service."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Iowa Hawkeye, the Representative from DuPage, Representative Jim Meyer."

Meyer: "Well, thank you very much and first let me say what an honor it has been to serve with all of you. I need to really straighten out some of the stories that have been told here. My football prowess that's been spoken of, I have to admit I was a walk-on to the freshman team in Iowa back in 1962 or '63, I forget which it was now. I'd never played football before and it certainly showed on the field. I was invited back for my sophomore year, but by that time they said, you have to do something besides play football and bridge. So, I decided maybe Iowa wasn't the place for me and I graduated from Upper Iowa and I was a classmate with Mike Boland. And we did have an outstanding college professor that... and we were classmates, we graduated the same year and there are only eight (8) or ten

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(10) of us that graduated with that major... and we had an outstanding college professor that ended up in... as an intelligence officer for MacArthur, when the Second World War ended. And he brought that kind of expertise into the classroom and so, I've been extremely fortunate to serve or to go to school with that kind of training. To all my friends down here, I have to admit when I first was sworn in as a State Representative in Illinois in '93, as Don said, the largest class that they'd had probably during the... that century, considering both sides of the aisle. When I was first sworn in, I naively believed that I would just come down to Springfield and within a couple Bills that I've introduced and my ability to influence others and we'd solve the problems of this state in about six (6) months. And now... it was a marvelous learning experience and the first learning... the first experience that I learned was the fact that this state is so diverse and that each of us gets here the same way, we get elected. And once we're elected, we represent the people that elected us and there's just a whole... so many different philosophies and personal experiences and regional differences between everyone that lives in this state and it all comes down here to this House Floor and to the Senate and it gets melded together. And that's the beauty of democracy, that we have the ability to interact with people and to influence and to change the direction that our communities are going or our state is going or our nation is going. And it's just been a marvelous experience for me. I can't say enough about the staff members, certainly on the

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Republican side, of the aisle as well as the Democratic side of the aisle. It's been my experience during the last sixteen (16) years that certainly I look to staff and these young people, even though there a number of us that have white hair, these young people have a great deal of influence on... on the state. We depend upon them in order to help us develop our ideas that we come out here and we propose and convince people to vote for and without them we wouldn't be able to operate the way that we do. And I can not only thank my staff, but also the... that on the Democratic side of the aisle. Over the years, when my staff hasn't been around in a meeting or they've left and it's after the meeting and we're walking and I have a question, I feel very comfortable in asking the Democratic side of the aisle staff members a question and I know I'm going to get an honest answer. And I'm certain that Democratic Members would feel the same way about our staff too. It may be a different perspective, but it's an honest answer. And I think that backup is what helps us to legislate what... the way that we do here. The Membership, even though there are differences regionally, even though there are differences philosophically, I can't tell you how great the experience has been to serve with each and every one of you. And I thank you for being part of that experience. You know, we have a lifestyle, as elected officials, that is hard for others to contemplate and to understand and if you think about how we live our lives and I've done it for the last sixteen (16) years at this level, ten (10) years before, but here at this level at least we

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live our lives in little chunks. We're always looking at deadlines, we're looking at elections, we're looking at the calendar, everything is two (2) weeks to two (2) months and it goes by very, very quickly. And sixteen (16) years is a long, long time, but to me that sixteen (16) years it's like it started yesterday. And I truly have enjoyed all sixteen (16) years. It's going to take some time for me to reflect back on all the different experiences that I've had both with my constituency and also here in Springfield and to relish those experiences and to in a way share those experiences over and over again as I reflect on them. And I thank you for being part of my life for the last sixteen (16) years. I wish all of you Godspeed and good luck as you lead the state into this century. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "All those in favor of the adoption of House Resolution 1670 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, and by unanimous consent, House Resolution 1670 is approved. Mr. Clerk, on page 4 of the Calendar, we have... Representative Dunkin, for what purpose do you seek recognition?"

Dunkin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know people are leaving, today's their last day and I'd like to mention someone who six (6) years ago was my first staffer. Today, Ladies and Gentlemen, is Liz Brown's final day here in the House of Representatives. It's going to be somewhat of a sad day for some of us, especially some of us who have matured over the process and really learn and have grown to appreciate staff members who were diligent, hardworking, spoke their mind, gave their particular perspective and added a

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tremendous amount of value to one's political career. So, there's a great deal of Legislators here who owe a great level of respect to where they are because of staffers such as Liz Brown. Congratulations and best of success on your future endeavors."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Dan Burke."

Burke: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen. I didn't know we were at this point in the day, but I certainly couldn't let the opportunity escape to compliment our staffer Liz Brown. She has been a marvelous asset to me and then certainly a tremendous help on the Executive Committee and we did wish her the very best in the Executive Committee yesterday, but again, for all to hear, certainly, Liz, I couldn't have done it without you. You've been a marvelous aide, a marvelous young lady. I sometimes marvel at your knowledge of this process and I certainly wish you nothing but the best as you go into private enterprise as a lobbyist. And I certainly recommend to my colleagues that we be very, very nice to her as we will see Liz on the other side of the doorway. So, Liz, we love you. All the best to you. Godspeed."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mendoza."

Mendoza: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, when I first arrived at this chamber eight (8) years ago, Liz, I think, maybe had been here one term before me. Am I right? And so, it was almost like we were both starting off in our path of public service and I have seen her grow through this process as, you know, a staffer who's being worked as a slave, like many of them still are today,

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and now, an absolute brilliant mind in this legislative process and I think that any lobbying company or firm that has her is going to be very lucky to have probably one of the smartest people that we've had the pleasure of working with over many years working on their behalf, which I would consider to be the peoples' behalf because if I know one thing about Liz is that she actually cares... she cares deeply about what we do here in this chamber and I don't think there's a single Member in this chamber that has not been helped by Liz Brown whether a Democrat or a Republican and who doesn't know what a talent she really is. So, Liz, thank you for all of your help, you know, during my last eight (8) years and I wish you nothing but the very best because frankly, that's what you deserve."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mary Flowers."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take this opportunity to thank Liz Brown for her years of commitment. And I was really amazed how Liz was able to go through her nine (9) months of pregnancy without missing a beat and she's just been fantastic. And Liz, I want to congratulate you on your new family and I know your son means so much to you and I hope you find prosperity and happiness in whatever you endeavor to do in life. And God bless you. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Cindy Soto."

Soto: "Thank you, Speaker. Liz, I just want to wish you the best of luck. You deserve it and more. You've earned it. So, you know, very good luck to you and your family and your little boy, he's wonderful. We're going to miss you,

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but you'll be right out that door. So, God bless you. We love you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Liz, I think I'm the only one in the room who really... we... I hate to see you go. I just hate to see you go. I appreciate the dedication that you have shown in your being on the staff here for Speaker Madigan. I think you have shown that women can have, not it all but have a little more. You have a family, you have a new baby and yet you have shown that you have a commitment to this place, to the House of Representatives. And all the times that you talk with me and ask what I needed and how I wanted certain things done, you did it with a great deal of grace and a great deal of courage and I thank you very much."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Naomi Jakobsson."

Jakobsson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Liz, I met you before I came over here when you were off the clock and got to know you very well. Since then have worked with you in many capacities and just to repeat what so many other people said about your dedication, how hard you work for all of us. But one of the things that I really noticed about you, Liz, is that you really know where we're coming from and when I've gone to you and said now, you know, think about my district. And you have that talent, you know how to do that. And I think that's going to take you far in your next endeavors. I miss you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Lisa Hernandez."



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Hernandez: "Thank you, Speaker. Liz, I just want... wanted to take a moment to thank you. As one of the newest Members in the Assembly, I really appreciate the patience and just the support. Wish you very well in your new endeavor and I'm sure you're going to do fine."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Al Riley."

Riley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Liz, the best of luck to you in all of your future endeavors. I know you will do well. Thank you for being my staffer. One of the things that I can say, you know, about you is that you're prepared. You're prepared, and you have those KSAs: that knowledge, skill and ability. And I think it'll... it'll serve you very well. But one thing I have to say, you know, as an urban planner, one of the reasons that I think you're so great, is that you know Arc info and anybody that knows Arc info is all right with me. Good luck and thank you so much for your service."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Lou Lang."

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Liz, I'd like to add to the congratulations. Those... those of us who serve here know better than anybody how hard the job is that you do. And we appreciate your commitment and your loyalty and your efforts on behalf of all of us in this caucus and all of us on the House Floor. We could not do the work we do here without you. I know that it has prepared you well for your future life. I know you'll do well and I'm certain we're going to be all seeing you in our offices from time to time on issues that you're working on. Congratulations."

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Speaker Lyons: "Liz Brown, on behalf of the House of Representatives, thank you for your many years of great quality service. Thank you, Liz. Mr. Clerk, back to the Agreed Resolutions, congratulator... congratulatory Resolutions on top of page 4 is House Resolution 1675. The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Rosemary Mulligan."

Mulligan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is kind of a tough day for me. I'm losing a great number of the people that came in in the class that I came in and this is one of the bigger losses for me because she's also the other half of my district. Carolyn and I both came in, elected in '92 started in '93, there were forty-four (44) Members in our class, twenty-four (24) in the Republican Caucus. Actually, we were more new Republicans than there were old Republicans, we just didn't figure out the power we had until it was probably too late. But we've served under three (3) Governors, two (2) Leaders and when Carolyn and I first came in with Senator Marty Butler and we were a real good team and I'll always miss all of them, I miss Carolyn particularly. But I think Carolyn who was... the outstanding thing about Carolyn is she's given half a lifetime to public service and that's no mean feat. She was mayor of Mount Prospect for twelve (12) years and she served in this Body for sixteen (16) years. And when you talk about respected Members, Carolyn certainly falls in one of the top categories, I think, of people respecting her on both sides of the aisle. She brings a quiet passion to what she does and she always does her homework. There's no one that

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you'd rather go to a meeting with, go to a meeting in her district, go to a meeting with an agency, because she always does her homework and she's right there whether we have staff or not. She's a learned lawyer. She's great on municipal issues. But one of the things I think that a lot of people forget because it's been a long time, for a time she served as the chair and the spokesman for the Health Care Committee. She was one of the original authors, along with Barbara Currie, of the original KidCare legislation. She's worked hard to provide fair insurance coverage with business for their employees, a really difficult task. She was outstanding in the area of long-term care insurance and mental health. She's always been there whenever I've needed her to support me whether it's on airport issues or things in our district that were really important. When COWL was foundering for a while when some of our leaders had left the General Assembly, Carolyn stepped in and was one of the coconveners of COWL. She's very passionate on women's rights and maybe people don't always get that from her, but she's right there and she always reminds the rest of us not to forget that. If you want an organization to stay focused or you want a caucus to stay focused, Carolyn's right there. One of the other big issues is, she's shorter than I am and I've always appreciated that in the district. It's really nice when you're standing up with really tall people and there's at least one person that's shorter than you are. I think there are so many things that people are going to say about Carolyn that no matter what I say it's not enough, but they'll be a whole

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lot of people that are going to add to this. But really, I think the best thing you can say about her, she is a respected Member, she stands up and she does her homework, she drafts her Bills correctly, she's worked in a variety of issues. The wealth of information that she brings, well, it'll be sad for me to lose because I could always count on her whether it was about property tax, anything municipal, as... in her former mayor's life that she would be helpful with us. And the fact that so many people on both sides of the aisle respect her, so many people in the district respect her. She brings a quiet passion to everything that she does. I'm going to miss Carolyn greatly, but I hope that she and her husband David enjoy a retirement. I know I'll get to see her because she'll be around the district, if she's not in Cape Cod too much. But I know we, particularly in our caucus, the Members that came in in my class, are going to miss her very much. But I hope, as she leaves now, having brought so much to the State of Illinois and so much to our caucus and so much on issues, that she enjoys this retirement and that she remembers to pick up the phone and call us and let us know when she thinks we're not doing the job that we should be or to give us a hand. So, Carolyn, I personally will miss you. It's really difficult losing the other half of my district and a Member from my class."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from DuPage, Representative Sandy Pihos."

Pihos: "Well, it is truly... Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's truly a privilege and an honor to recognize the achievements and

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service of Representative Carolyn Krause who is retiring from the House after sixteen (16) years of dedicated service representing the citizens of northwest Cook County in the 66th District. From what I can see and in talking to many of her constituents, she truly is the 66th District. Representative Krause leaves the House at the end of a long and distinguished career in public service. We all know before this she served ten (10) years as mayor to Mount Prospect where she always served with the highest standards of integrity, honesty and worked hard to improve her community and she brought that service right here to Springfield. Through her strong legal background, she brought knowledge and depth to her work in Springfield and she is defined by so much groundbreaking work that it's just too numerous to mention. All of her achievements show that she's been a dedicated, hardworking Representative for her constituents. In fact, oftentimes we sat here trying to get her to leave, but she was so devoted to her constituents Carolyn could never bring herself to miss even one day of service to her public here. She'll never be accused of lacking conviction. When I first came to Springfield, the very first time I personally met her and heard her referenced, someone called her a tiger and I thought how can someone be calling this small lady a tiger, but then I was soon to found.. find out that Carolyn only spoke when she had a profound and meaningful message to deliver and when she spoke here on the House Floor, she said it loudly and clearly and if you ever really noticed, it's one of the few times on the House Floor that people

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would get quiet because they wanted to listen to what she had to say. I thank her from the bottom of my heart. She's been a wonderful mentor to me. She has shown me so many things as she has been my seatmate through the last six (6) years. One of the things I admire her most for is her ability to work in a bipartisan fashion with legislative colleagues, always finding something to agree on and then building consensus so that action might truly happen. I wish Carolyn well. I thank her for everything she's done. I know that now she'll be able to devote herself full-time to the light of her life, David, who has always been her most ardent and loyal supporter. I know that... I hope she won't be thinking about us too often and just enjoying herself wherever she is. So, thank you for everything, Carolyn."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I would ask if we could please lower the noise level. These are very special moments for our fellow Members who won't be coming back and the noise level has escalated as it usually does here in the House, but if we just keep the noise level... staff, Members, please, keep it down. Thank you very much. Clerk, the Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Cook, Representative Harry Osterman."

Osterman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to rise and say that it's been an honor and a privilege to serve with Representative Carolyn Krause. At a time right now that we're going through in our state with a lot of skepticism about our process and our politics, Representative Krause is a shining example to all of us and to the people of

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Illinois of what a good Legislator should be. She never wore her Party label on her shirt... or shirtsleeve and on every issue that you dealt with her on, she focused on what was the right thing to do, not what's the politically expedient thing to do, but what was the right thing for her constituents and for the people of the State of Illinois. And again, that's an example to all of us. Representative Mulligan brought up her... her great height. I wasn't going to go there, but Carolyn was always tall in stature and when she spoke on an issue, she spoke with great clarity and when you had her in your corner on an issue, you had great wind at your back because you knew that if you were focused on an issue that Carolyn was supportive of, you were working in the right direction. And she stood tall in those, oftentimes, I'm sure and to a lot of flack from her colleagues or some of her constituents, but always Carolyn focused on what was right. So, I want to join with all of us today to wish her health and great happiness and it's been an honor."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Karen May."

May: "Thank you. Carolyn, this is really hard to say goodbye to you because I have such respect for the service that you have given to the citizens of the State of Illinois. My first district went closer to your district so I would bump into you at events and I have to tell you, this Lady was revered, revered by her constituents and the Northwest Municipal Conference. As a freshman, I'd have to go to see her get Legislator of the Year. It seemed like every year you got Legislator of the Year because of your work as a

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mayor and the voice you were down here for municipalities. But I got to work with you on the Conference of Women Legislators and on the Health Care Committee. And there I really appreciated your quiet support as I was pushing the envelope for small business insurance pools and nondiscriminatory pricing. You would listen to me; you would often say we're not quite there yet or something, but I... but as Harry said, once I convince you, I had a great ally in you. For this and for women's issues for... you're a very good attorney, too, everyone respected what you done... what you've done down here and the... your thoughts as you brought them and helped us polish our issues. I think that that's how I will remember you. I know you hate the short jokes, but you are the most dynamite in a four... under five foot person down here. In my mind you're as tall as Barack Obama and Abraham Lincoln. I will miss you. We are all better off from... from the example you have set for us. Thank you, Carolyn, for all of your service."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Roger Eddy."

Eddy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I... I want to take a moment as well to thank Carolyn for her hard work on behalf of, not only her constituents, but for all of the people of the State of Illinois on... on one issue that when I first went to her to ask about the issue, it had to do with the electric rate crisis we faced a couple of years ago and when I sat down to talk to her about it, she looked at me and said, this isn't that simple and was she ever correct. It was not that simple, but we were fortunate to have someone with her institutional knowledge of the issue, her



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background, and her experience... intelligence working on an issue that was important to everyone in the state. And I think through her efforts, a better... a better public policy was served. As often is the case, with Carolyn, her leadership on that issue was a quiet leadership, but it was profound, it was evident, and everyone that day, when we discussed what the right thing to do regarding electrical rate and utility issues, stopped, got quiet and listened when Carolyn spoke on that issue. And I... I'm going to miss her. I... I think that we're losing a lot when we lose the kind of institutional knowledge and experience that Carolyn has. She is a quiet leader and a class act. Our best."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Elaine Nekritz."

Nekritz: "Thank you, Speaker. It has been my privilege to represent part of Mount Prospect where Carolyn was mayor and during my tenure here in the Illinois General Assembly. And I have to say, it's really been only recently when I've been in that area where people no longer say to me, no, no, no, you're not my Representative, Carolyn Krause is. And I think it's... and they say, well, we love Carolyn. She does such a great job for us. And I really was getting... I developed a complex over that over the last several years. But Carolyn, I know that... that the feeling of the constituents that you represent is well deserved, your reputation is well deserved and it has really been a pleasure to work together with you on local issues and on behalf of those constituents that revere you so much. And I know you will be sorely missed. I will miss working with

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you, as well. And your con... yours will be big shoes to fill. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Julie Hamos."

Hamos: "Thank you. I, too, want to stand and acknowledge Carolyn Krause's wonderful work in the General Assembly. I especially want to commend you, Carolyn, for the great work you've done as a champion for consumers as we have tackled some of the big compl... I mean, the complex issues of telecommunications regulation and deregulation and electric regulation and deregulation. And I think on the... no matter how complex, I always felt that you were willing to stand up for the little guy, the consumer. And you will be missed in many different ways, but that's especially one of those battles that we have fought together. Best of wishes... best wishes and I know we'll see you again."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Sid Mathias."

Mathias: "Thank you. It is such... such an honor and a privilege for me to stand up here today to honor Carolyn. Carolyn... Are you standing, Carolyn? I'm not sure. I... I... We all joke and I'm probably one of the... one of the many who... who always teased you, Tara... Carolyn, but I have certainly learned through the years that while in actual height Carolyn may be one of our shortest Members in... when it comes to heart, when it comes to knowledge, when it comes to inspiration of others, she is one of the tallest Legislators in this... in this chamber. She has not only been a mentor to me, but has really inspired me to try to be the best Legislator that I can be and I'm sure she's inspired many, many others in this room. As a fellow

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mayor, we worked on community issues together, but Carolyn didn't just take the company line. She really tried to make legislation the best it could be, regardless if it was pro or against some of the interests that, regardless of which group it was, she tried to do what was best for the State of Illinois. And I think that's going to be part of her legacy is that she really has changed public policy in Illinois for the better. As... my district, also, actually after it was next... is next to Carolyn's, but after redistricting I actually took over half of Carolyn's district and I... after campaigning that, I asked Carolyn, could you please send a letter to your constituents so not only they'll support me, but they know I'm not running against you 'cause otherwise they won't talk to me. She was so well-respected by the constituents. I remember going to parties, you know, bene... either campaign ones or any event where we would talk to people and I could just see how people literally looked up to Carolyn for advice, as I did. And so, it... I... I certainly will miss Carolyn. I know Don Moffitt, my... my seatmate will miss Carolyn because when I leave the room to talk to a... a lobbyist I always tell Don make sure if there's an important vote coming up there and I'm not here to tell you to follow Carolyn's lead. And I've tried to follow that lead in the ten (10) years that I've been in the Legislature. So, good luck, Carolyn in whatever you decide to do. Again, you'll be greatly missed and hope that you will stay in touch with us."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Don Moffitt."

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Moffitt: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Carolyn, as a classmate of yours, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve with you. I'm sure going to miss you. As Representative Mathias just stated, his directions were always, as he had to step off to meet with a constituent or whoever, if he had not already left instructions on an issue, which was rare, but if he did and there was a critical vote and I couldn't reach him on the cell phone, to vote with you and we knew it would be in the best interest of the district that Sid was representing and it would be the right vote because you're close there together and his respect for you. He has not given me any further instructions who to check with yet, so I would like your cell phone before you leave in case on those rare times when Representative Mathias is off the floor, if I need a quick advice. So, if you'd leave that cell phone. But I can't miss this occasion of... Representative Krause, you and I have served on House Elementary & Secondary Education Committee for a number of years together and most of those issues on education you and I had a similar view. And I'm not going to mention any names, but occasionally you and I would not necessarily be in lockstep with people of a higher pay grade over us perhaps in our caucus, just hypothetically. And so, there was a time or two (2) or three (3) or a dozen when there was some suggestion that certain Members of the committee might be substituted if they weren't going to vote a certain way. And Carolyn, I know I was concerned because I said to you one day, you know, they literally... even though you were there... they

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literally could pick you up and carry you out and replace you. But I said, you know, if we had handcuffs and we handcuffed each other together, we're here and we're going to stay. So, it's my understanding you're leaving the handcuffs and it was always great to be there in it together and we stayed there and voted our districts and our conscience and that's the integrity, that's the respect that our colleagues have mentioned about you. You truly voted your conscience, you voted your district, you voted the State of Illinois. It's been great to have you here. Carolyn, thank you for your service and Godspeed."

Speaker Lyons: "Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker and Members of the House. I, too, wish the best of everything to Carolyn. I've enjoyed working with you so very much and I've also enjoy it that you're shorter than I am. I've also appreciated that you really are a closet Democrat and I think it's now finally time to let your Republican colleagues know the truth. You've been a standup voter on issues involving the welfare for poor, reproductive rights, issues that matter on rights and civil liberties across the state. Carolyn, I know you and your husband are going to have a terrific time taking travels and spending time in your New England summer home. We wish you well, but we certainly will miss you. We will never miss the mark you have made on the State of Illinois and we thank you for that."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Renée Kosel."

Kosel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I've had the privilege of sitting next Carol (sic-

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Carolyn) for just a few years and I have to tell you, her influence on my service down here lasts from the very beginning. When I came down here twelve (12) years ago, I asked, who should I look to for guidance? Who would be the person that would be the woman who would really show you how to do it? And everything that's been said about Carolyn here is true except that Democratic part, she's ours and we're keeping her. And she served with dignity. She served... she's intelligent, she's... works hard, she's thoughtful and she truly does it the way it should be done. I can't do anything but wish you and David the very best. And... and I asked her earlier today if she's going to have trouble underwin... unwinding. She smiled from ear to ear and said, no. So, wonderful, wonderful days ahead for you and David."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Jerry Mitchell."

Mitchell, J.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Carolyn, I don't know what to say. Years ago when Duane Noland left this chamber he gave me the title of King of the Short Caucus and we have defended all of our Members against the short jokes, many of which are not appreciated today. But as King of the Short Caucus, Carolyn is the honorary Queen of the Short Caucus. Now, there's going to be a huge hole in the Short Caucus when Carolyn leaves. So, we will look around for someone... oh, by the way, if you're over five-seven and male, you're out; if you're over five-one and female, you're out. So, that eliminates a lot of Members. All right, Carol (sic-Carolyn). On the serious side, many of you know that I came down here straight from a

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superintendency with the whole idea that I was going to help change the way we fund education in Illinois. It'd only take a couple of years and then I'd fly into the sunset. Well, I'm still here; it hasn't changed. And one of the insights that was given to me by Carolyn Krause was one day she came into my office and said, Jerry, if you're ever going to make any headway on education funding reform, you have got to address the problem of special education funding in the suburbs, because it is literally destroying us. And so, we looked at that and thank heavens, in the last couple of years we have made some headway on that issue. So, if that's the key to all of us getting together, then I take my hat off and all of my respect to the key holder, Carolyn Krause. She has so many abilities and so many talents in so many areas it's absolutely amazing. And though she may be Queen of the Short Caucus, the respect... the respect this woman has in this chamber is unparalleled. Carolyn, I wish you Godspeed. I hope you and your family have years and years of happiness because you, my Lady, deserve it. And by the way, we've taken a vote and you're now an honorary member of the back row. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Chapin Rose."

Rose: "Thank you. Carolyn, I don't know, there's very few people here you can say as your... that you really look up to and really respect and really trust and it's been said time again but it can't be said enough. Your wisdom, it's sage and it really... I don't know how you do it, I don't know how you comprehend and understand all the issues that you do,

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but you do. And when you stand up and say this is a good idea or a bad idea, you have a lot more than one vote, Carolyn Krause. With that said, I know that there's a lot of us who are going miss you. And we joked earlier that what... what's happens in the Stratton Building stays in the Stratton Building, but when I'd come over to your office, you're always working. And in fact, I don't think I've ever seen you in your office when you're not working. And you are... I will just conclude with this. I find it beyond ironic that the wisdom and advice in what you put in the Heiple Report ten (10) years ago and how many people in this chamber even think about being a part of a law review article let alone doing a law review article. And your guidance ten (10) years ago was invaluable over the last month and I really, really wish you the best. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Suzie Bassi."

Bassi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Carolyn Krause, aka Mighty Mouse, our districts have been adjoining for since... ever since I came into the General Assembly. I want to thank you for your strong ethics, for your moral courage. You were a mentor for me before I got here, during the entire time and I hope after the fact, as well. You've been a bellwether to so many of us, most of us who had any sense, as to what's right as opposed to what's necessary... not necessarily politically correct. Thank you so much for your leadership. You'll be sorely missed."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative David Leitch."

Leitch: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to add my words of admiration for Carolyn Krause. I know



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many of us have been serving in these chambers for a considerable period of time, but I must tell you I know of no other Member in my tenure that has enjoyed the respect and the admiration of Carolyn Krause. Many of us are often called upon to go visit with young people in schools and one of the first questions that we are asked is, what does it take... what do I need to have to do your job? And I would suggest that there is no more successful model of public servant than that provided by Carolyn Krause. Indeed, Carolyn Krause is the epitome of a public servant, not just here in these chambers, but as we've heard, in her community as mayor and in so many other capacities. Carolyn Krause is a person who deserves honor and as we look today... as we look at how so many feel about public service and all of the unfortunate goings on in Illinois, it's especially important, I think, that we celebrate and salute someone who is such an inspiration to those of us who have served with her and those who should be coming to serve here, as well. So, in short, Carolyn, as you already know, you're my hero and I will dearly miss you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Patti Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. I just ran across a quote today about leaders and it spoke about how there are two (2) types of leaders. One is those that work at it; the second is those that take credit for it. And it said, join the first group 'cause there's far less competition. And that's what I would say about Carolyn. She's probably one of the most outstanding leaders I've ever met, not just in this House but anywhere

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else that I've served in the rest of my life. I think that there's only one word that you could really use to describe her career and that would be brilliant. All of the words that have been spoken today about her here are true, especially when Representative Rose just spoke about. Serving on the impeachment investigative committee was an honor and there, I think, Carolyn's name came up at least twenty-five (25) times regarding her dissention in the vote on the Heiple trial and her words describing the totality of evidence which was used when we wrote our report. Ten (10) or eleven (11) years later she was the one that was most quoted out of that historic event before. So, thank you, Carolyn, for everything you've done. You've been a part of history before and you will always be in our memories. Good luck to you and good health and good retirement. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative David Miller."

Miller: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to add on to what everyone has said and just be real brief. You got to remember when I came in in 2001 the numbers between both sides of the aisles were very close and there was a lot of partisan posturing on both sides of the aisle to get some type of leadership. And part of being on this side, you sort of go into that and be a little reluctant to meet Members on the other side because they may have some evil cabal or something that they're trying to hold against you. Carol (sic-Carolyn) and I served on the Health Care Committee first and I realized that that wasn't the case. It was a learning lesson for me. And that was further

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strengthened on our position and us in the southland trying to get a third airport in south suburban Peotone and her opposition with O'Hare expansion. And so, you started to really realize that... that people from different ilks, from different walks, from different ways they got here sort of can share the same goals in mind and Carolyn has really taught me that lesson, which I really appreciate. For those who don't know, she does have a great sense of humor. I'd go up to her and joke with her about all kinds of things, from time to time and I think maybe she's shocked at these kind of things coming out of my mouth, but I hear these things out of her mouth too. And so, with that, that will be missed. And you are, I think, one of the most intelligent people in this chamber. You're one of the few people who speaks in public debate, but when you do speak in public debate, you can almost hear a pin drop because your comments have always been thoughtful, whether someone agrees or disagree with you. You've obviously put a lot of time into it and the truth of the matter is that is an example of compassion and professionalism that is needed by all the Members in this chamber. And just want to say thank you and good luck to you in the future."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mike Fortner."

Fortner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the House, I actually had the opportunity to interact with Representative Carolyn Krause before I was a Member of the General Assembly. It's quite common for those of us who are mayors, and I was before I was a Member in this Body, to come down to Springfield to lobby on behalf of Bills

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that are important to our community. And that was when I first got a chance to meet with Carolyn and was so pleased to find such a receptive ear, she having also having served as a mayor before her time here in the House. Since then, I've really got a chance to talk with her on a wide range of issues. Earlier, I commented on the importance to new Members of the person who shares the Senate District with them, but it's also important who is in your row and I was very pleased and honored to have been seated in the same row as Carolyn Krause. And particularly, during my first year where we know we had many, many more meetings in 2007 than we ever bargained for, I had many wonderful conversations, really getting a chance to understand this institution and how it could function from one of the true masters of this institution, Representative Carolyn Krause. So, with that, I want to wish you a wonderful retirement and I know that your legacy will be remembered for a long time."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Bob Biggins."

Biggins: "Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I don't know how many times I've heard the word respect mentioned so far, I think it's about six (6) in people talking about Carolyn. She and I, as many know, came in together with a lot of others and we became close friends, a couple different reasons for that. She's a... Over the years, I've sought her advice on many times and she's always been generous with her knowledge and I think that she possesses two (2) extra qualities that are different, but they sound... might sound like they're similar but... She's a great listener and

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she's a great audience. And I'm sure with others, I'm going to miss her very much."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Dan Brady."

Brady: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, Carolyn, and I just, too, want to offer my congratulations and let you know what a distinct pleasure it was to serve with you in this General Assembly. I will always remember, shortly after the time that I came in, we had some issues, some reorganization and some challenges going on in our caucus. You were very much involved, very much open to those of us who were new, trying to help us navigate through and really shining a light on the process, the caucus and what occurs. You know, there are those that can be at the helm or any of those... anybody can be at the helm when the sea's calm, but you've been there when the sea's very rough around this place. And you're one of those individuals who simply just commands respect, treats every one else like you would like to be treated and if so many more of us did the same, we'd be better off. Congratulations to you in your retirement and we know we'll see you around. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Rich Brauer."

Brauer: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be like Representative Mitchell and I'll keep my comments short. You know, you're often misunderstood in this whole back row because when we would say stuff to you to get a reaction, I thought you were a little hard of hearing but you were just ignoring us back here. David, up there, wave to everybody. I'm not sure that the invitation got to you. Carolyn says

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you love to fish and I've offered several times to feel free, come down, take in my hospitality and stay with us. And we have an excellent place... Has she ever given you an invitation? Yeah. That doesn't look like a very convincing yes. She really is a practical joker. That's kind of a side that a lot of people don't see and we're really going to miss that here. Okay. But on... on the serious side really, there's two (2) quotes that I think are very appropriate. One was from Thomas Jefferson and he said, 'The most valuable of all talents is to never use two words when one word will do.' And I think that really describes you that whenever you get up and speak it's certainly people pay attention because they have so much respect for what you're thinking and they know the hard work that you've put behind it. Also, the next one is that, 'If you want to be heard, speak softly.' And in the chamber, a lot of times when you can't be heard, when you speak softly, I can guarantee that you're always heard. We're going to miss you. Best of luck and a happy retirement and still come down and stay with me."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Ken Dunkin."

Dunkin: "About four (4) years ago, Representative Wirsing had passed and we're in Macomb, Illinois, coming back from the funeral. So, we get here, it was in the afternoon and I had... I really didn't even know who Representative Krause was. I'd never met her formally, but I knew she was a Member here. So, she walked up to me, this little lady with this sort of squeaky voice, 'Ken Dunkin, here, is this yours?' She holds up this ChapStick and I said, no, what

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is that for? 'This is for all of the butt you were kissing to get on Tom Cross's plane back to the State Capitol.' I will never ever, ever forget that. I still laugh at it to this day. I thought it was hilarious. You bringing me a ChapSti... a stick of ChapStick because you felt as if I had to do something a little extra to get on a Republican plane and come back to the Capitol. My seatmates and I laugh about it all the time. I just remember how you just floored me with that particular creative joke. So, again, you will be missed sincerely. Keep that fighting spirit. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Beth Coulson."

Coulson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen. I just, too, want to congratulate Carolyn and David in their retirement. And I think the only thing I haven't heard talked about a lot is the health care issues she worked on. It's amazing, when you sit here and listen, every single issue we've worked on in the last... almost two (2) decades, Carolyn has had her fingers on. And I want to remind people about the KidCare program. Carolyn was one of the people who helped develop that KidCare program and many of the other health care issues that she worked so hard on in the Health Care Committee. So, I just want to say another quote on leadership from Lao Tzu, 'A true leader gets things done, steps aside and you don't even know they were there.' Carolyn, we will always know you were there to get things done. Thank you very much for your leadership."

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Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, a giant from Mount Prospect, a giant from the Illinois House of Representatives, Carolyn Krause."

Krause: "Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Through all the years that I served here, every time, every year was an honor and it was a privilege to have been a Member of this great institution of the Illinois House of Representatives. And I can look back at these years of service and the work that we all did together in a bipartisan way and there were a lot of achievements, a lot of good things that we did together. And I fully realize that at this time our state has some challenges ahead, some obstacles, but truly this is a great state and it can be a great state once again. And I believe in the work of the Members of this House, as you go forward this year and in the future year, you will do so many things again together to, indeed, make this the state that it has been in the past. And I have the full confidence in the Members of this chamber and in the State Senate that you will lead it again to be the great state that it has been and that I know it will be once again. I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the people of my district who through all the years supported me and it meant so very, very much. I wish to extend my appreciation to my legislative aides: Nancy von Helms and Evelyn Osowski who served the residents and citizens of my district and did a great job. In addition, I wish to thank my legislative aide down here in Springfield, Donna Paoni, who, Donna, you did so much for me and so much when I was



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down here and for the residents of the district. I wish to thank all of my colleagues, those of you who spoke today so graciously, and all of you who I had the opportunity to work with through the years that you assisted me. I wish to thank the staffs of both Parties and in particular to the Republican staff that for the work that you did, every call I made, you constantly helped and the work that you did meant so very, very much to me and to the citizens. And I wish to thank my husband and best friend, David for his unwavering support... for his unwavering support through all the years and now, David, I am coming home and we will have that time to travel and get to Cape Cod. Again, I wish all of you the very best. You will do well; you will succeed for the State of Illinois. Do good. My heartfelt thanks to all of you."

Speaker Lyons: "All those in favor of the adoption of House Resolution 1675 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, is by unanimous consent, House Resolution 1675 is adopted. Mr. Clerk, on the top of page 4 of the Calendar, under Agreed Resolutions, we have House Resolution 1676. The Chair recognizes Representative Tim Schmitz."

Schmitz: "Thank you, Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As... as we muddle our way through these Resolutions today, honoring our colleagues, it's a... it's a tough day. It's a bittersweet day and we're all going through the emotions right now and I know the Members that are leaving are going through the same motions, but I have the distinct honor to say some remarks about a colleague and a friend of

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mine, Brent Hassert. And I tell you what, before I was getting my thoughts together I had more people come up to me who I value their opinion from staff saying, be nice, you can't roast him. So, I got a couple of pages here that I can't really go through at the moment. We'll talk about Brent on those pages. So, I do have a couple of other things that I did put together and I figured if I really want to give Brent a proper sound... a sendoff and to have him get a little angry with me, I'm just going to be flat-out nice to him. So, Brent, I think and one... and on our side of the aisle one of the things that we enjoyed most about you down here in Springfield is when you were appointed Deputy Leader in '02 and you would work a Roll Call. And Brent would walk around the floor or the office whenever he was working his side of the Roll Call and he would walk into your office, bring you the Bill that he's talking about and say, yes or no. And you would try to engage Brent in a conversation and say, Brent, you know, I was thinking about this or you know, what's going on at home, how's your district, that's a nice suit and nice tie, and blah, blah, blah and Brent would look at you and say, listen, it's a simple question, yes or no. I don't care about your family. I don't care about your office. I don't care what you're wearing today. I don't care about your Bills. I've got to get this Roll Call done, yes or no. So, I know my friends on the Democrat side of the aisle, you didn't have that pleasure since '02 to have some of those Roll Calls that we did on our side, but as Brent moves into a new chapter and leans up against that golden

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rail out there, some of you may get to experience the same pleasure we had on Roll Calls and I'm sure when he walks in your office, he may step it up a notch and talk about your tie and maybe learn something a little bit about your family, but the bottom line is, he's going to want to know, yes or no. And I learned that for six (6) years, so if you want him out of your office, just give him the answer right away. As I look back at what Brent did and I had to actually read the Resolution to see what he had did down here, but I'm sorry, that was more on the roast line again. I'm not supposed to do that. Brent is a hardworking guy and when you think you're working on issues in this Legislature and you think you're really getting up early, getting in here, staying late, getting it done, you need to look at Brent and realize that he's still ahead of you. Brent was always in here early. Brent was always here late. He loved the process. He loves the people. He loved debates. He loved working on politics. I mean, there wasn't a single thing about this that he didn't enjoy with the exception of probably Special Sessions. But it's an exciting process and I know it's one that, as we had our going away party for him last night back in Leader Cross's office, it's one he'll cherish. I've read stories about him in the newspaper and they really said some things about Brent that I'd never heard before, so it was good to see another side of him that many of us haven't seen here in Springfield or the Capitol, but you know what, he really loves his district. He worked very, very hard on getting I355 done. He worked extremely hard on getting seventy

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(70) acres of state land transferred over to open space and turning it into soccer fields. Those are the things that when you leave this Body and you head off to your next chapter, whether it be lobbying whether it be going back home and working consulting work or whatever you do for a living, when you leave this scene here you got to look back and say what did I get done. And Brent, I can honestly say, not even tongue in cheek, what you got done for your district is phenomenal. You worked very hard for your district. You worked very hard for your people. I know your work here in Springfield's not done. As I said, you're entering a new chapter and you're heading over to the rail and you're going to be working some Roll Calls and working some issues. I look forward to that. I look forward to future golf trips with you. Hopefully, I can get into your wallet a little bit more than I have in the past. But I look forward to continuing our relationship as I continue in the legislative process and you're just going to be working a different other area of the legislative process. So, Brent, it's been an honor serving with you and thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mark Beaubien."

Beaubien: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is somewhat of an emotional day for me. Brent was from the... has been my guardian and sponsor for many, many years. People aren't aware of this, but we've lived in the same house together for several years and we'd get up every morning, by 6:00 we'd be downstairs sitting in the living room, just the two (2) of us, drinking coffee and we would talk about every

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aspect of life, not just political life. As a matter of fact, quite frequently, they weren't political. It was all about growing up as a child and relations with our parents and our kids and philosophy of life and so forth. So, I got very, very close to Brent. Then I realized that I'm not losing him. He's just moving outside the front door. So, he'll still be around. He's... We're not living together anymore, so I don't have anybody to have coffee with in the morning. But I would say about Brent, in addition to representing his district extremely well, he's one of the hardest working Representatives I've had the pleasure to deal with. He has outstanding political skills. If I have a political question, I always go to Brent, he understands it much better than I do. But I know that he will be a very great success at what he is doing. And I would say about Brent, he's a man of absolute integrity and a man of his word, which is the kindest and one of the greatest things I could say. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Skip Saviano."

Saviano: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, this is a testimonial of a great leader, somebody I've had the opportunity to get elected with back in '92 and served the last sixteen (16) years with. I suppose talking about Brent, I wish I could use other language so he could relate to it a little better, but I'll refrain from that. But I am truly going to miss Brent. He's been a great leader in the caucus; he's done a great job as a whip on this floor. And he really has done a great job for his district. You could just see it. He's got boulevards named after him, parks

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named after him and he's not even dead yet. That's a great accomplishment. Maybe they thought you were going to die, but they accelerated it, but God bless, you're here with us today and I wish you a long life and a successful new career."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes Representative Renée Kosel."

Kosel: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Brent's district and mine abut each other geographically and have since I came down here. That was one of the first people I really got to know as a Legislator. He is the one who called up and encouraged me to run for this seat. He is... name has been taken in vain in my house several times because of that, but he has always been true to his word. He has always had the highest integrity. He scared us all years ago with cancer. We all thought with him and prayed for him and... and walked through that with him. And some of you here on the House Floor even shaved your head when he lost all his hair. We know that what's going to happen for you in the future is going to be positive. Your great sense of humor and your great commitment is going to carry you through. We are all better people for knowing you and having you with us on the House Floor. Thank you for what you've done, Brent."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Brady."

Brady: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I, too, want to congratulate and say thank you for the years of dedicated service for Brent Hassert. I, for one, am going to miss that little twinkle in his eye, that

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kindness in his heart, that gentleness in your touch and that beaming smile and that sweet little way of saying, hey, dufus head, what are you doing on this vote? And I would say what I thought. Brent would say, no, I don't think so. And we'd come to an agreement and we'd move on. But really in my line of work, Brent, I think there might be a position for you with that kindness and that touch and the soft way you have with people. So, I certainly... if things don't work out, outside of the aisle, I look forward to maybe working with you in that vein. But thank you for all you've done for me, the help you've given me, the direction you've given me and certainly always being there no matter what the issue was to sit down and talk about it. No matter what you thought I was going to do or not do on it. God bless you and good luck."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Jim Durkin."

Durkin: "Brent, you've had a great run and we will truly miss you and we're going to also miss that folksy, charming demeanor that you've brought to the floor on a daily basis. And... but more importantly, we'll miss those eloquent communication skills that you've had, particularly with the Members of the House Republican Caucus over the years. But I also personally want to thank you for kind of being a big brother and giving me some of that fatherly advice, particularly when we played golf many years ago in Alabama and you know, I'll never forget those moments. But more importantly, I think that when you think of Brent Hassert, I mean, he's had a lot of accomplishments but Renée brought up something, you know, that really was very important when

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you get to know Brent Hassert. The greatest accomplishment, I believe, that he's... he's had is when he was stricken with cancer many years ago. A number of us, we weren't quite sure if Brent was going to survive, let alone return back to the House of Representatives, but he did survive, he beat cancer and he was a outstanding Member of this caucus and this Legislature for many years. And to me that is the... the measure of a fine man and a person who... who doesn't give up and something that we should always remember that and use him as an example. So, Brent, I appreciate the steady hand which you... you've always had and also keeping this caucus together in some very difficult moments. But I wish you well and God bless you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mike Fortner."

Fortner: "I think a stool has three (3) legs and I commented about the importance of my geographic neighbor when I rose in honor of Joe Dunn and talked about the importance of the mentoring of one's Members in the same row when I talked about Carolyn Krause. And now, I want to make a couple comments about leadership, because... and that's the role as my leader that I got to know Brent Hassert. In fact, even before I was sworn in, Brent asked me over to lunch at the Sangamo Club and what was interesting, I think I got my first idea about how that role might fit in when I commented to somebody else that Brent had asked me to lunch and I got that look that you would get if you were in high school and you told all your classmates you were going to ask to go to the principal's office. But he's really shown me a lot about the role a leader can make, whether it be



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through Roll Calls, calls to make sure he knows where we're at and what we can do to make all of ourselves better Legislators. And for that, I want to thank Brent for the leadership he's shown me in my first two (2) years here in the House and I wish you all the best."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Ron Stephens."

Stephens: "Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I... I was one of those who shaved their head when Brent went through his illness and I arrived early that morning, we were out doing floor work, and I went and sat in his desk. And I'm sitting there with my newly shaved head and unbeknownst to me Brent came in the rear door and he said later that he saw me at his desk with the shaved head and he thought he had died. And... so, he's a little more complex than we want to admit. The... the fact is that he's been a trusted advisor to our caucus. He's helped our Leader and helped us along our way. We will... we will truly miss you and we wish you Godspeed."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Jim Sacia."

Sacia: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would start off with a comment similar to one Jack Franks made earlier that I don't normally stand and speak when somebody leaves because so many wonderful things are said about the people and I... I often get choked up, but I won't with Leader Hassert. And I don't mean that as a shot, yes, maybe I did, because in the six (6) years I've been here I can't tell you the number of times that Brent would get just about beside my desk and say, Sacia, do me a favor, don't say anything stupid today. And... and at first I was a little bit

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offended, but I rapidly learned that the way to deal with that, and I think Representative Brady said it very well, you just kind of come right back at him. And... and maybe this will be a commercial for a movie. There's a new movie out... and if you haven't seen it, you need to. It's called Gran Torino with Clint Eastwood. I'm sure you've seen it advertised. And the relationship between Clint Eastwood's barber and Clint Eastwood, I think, personifies the way Brent Hassert gets along with everyone in the Republican Caucus. So, I guess I would encourage you to see the movie so you get the drift of all of that. There's another movie that was out not long ago called Term of Endearment (sic-Terms of Endearment) and I think it's kind of Brent's way of dealing with people. He doesn't always compliment you in the way you would like to be complimented, but he always has something very profound to say. He always is highly, highly respected after you once get beyond that cheap shot that he'll take at you because you recognize that it truly is a term of endearment. Brent, you're a tremendous Legislator. I wish you Godspeed and tremendous good health in your future. Thanks for all you've done."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Bob Biggins."

Biggins: "Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Brent, reliable, smart, honest, hardworking, selfless, and a man of few words. That's it."

Speaker Lyons: "Republican Leader Tom Cross."

Cross: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I... I apologize for not being out here when some earlier Resolutions were called. I was, believe it or not, in a meeting I'd like to think getting

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some work done. But I want to just to, you know, this is a as people have said, a good day and a sad day. We have on our side four (4) people that I started out with serving in this Body. Pat Lindner, who I think you're going to get to her Resolution, if you remember to later today or maybe next, and Pat has become a very dear friend as she represents an area adjacent to mine and as we know, and you'll hear from a number of people, I think, she's a talented woman in so many ways. Her family is talented. We heard when her mother passed away a while back all of the many talents she had as a Congresswoman and also as a singer and cared deeply about the Fox Valley and Illinois and Pat is no different than her mom and is a talented singer but an equally talented State Rep. And Pat, we are going to miss you and you have always been very honest with me in a good way and know how to give me good news and bad news. And not only we will miss you, but your area will miss you. So, good luck with your life with George. I know it will be fun. I hope I get to have some more of George's margaritas. And Joe Dunn, I met Joe Dunn six (6) or seven (7) years ago, a young man running for the General Assembly, no one thought he had a chance and represents Wheatland Township in Naperville. And there was a fellow running that had been around for a long time and everyone just assumed that this man would win and Joe Dunn, like he's done in the General Assembly, surprised people and was not predictable. And what I liked about Joe Dunn is, you know, we get in this business and you just make assumptions that people are going to vote a certain way because of the

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way their... maybe the way they... from where they come or maybe their style or you just assume they're going to be conservative or moderate or whatever. What I've liked about Joe and what surprised me, and I think is a good trait, is he... he was not always predictable in how he was going to vote and he kept an open mind. And he did some things that maybe weren't particularly popular in his district, but he thought they were the right thing and the way to vote. And I admire that courage, but at the time I thought it was courage and I still do. And you know, he's got a business for background and he cares about Plainfield and Leland Township and I think the thing that stuck with me the most, Joe, is your willingness to do what you always thought was right and not everybody does that. And then Jim Meyer, you and I came in together, Jim and you had a great background in local government with Bolingbrook and somehow you were able to get along with and work with Roger Claar and not many people can do that. So, that says, I think, a whole lot about you. I'm joking, Roger, if you happen to be listening. Which also... not entirely. But you also and not only were good on veterans' issues, but you led this caucus in telecommunications issues. And you just cared deeply about this process and cared deeply about your district and I don't know that everybody understands that. But you and I have had some conversations and I know that leaving this institution is not easy for you and we will also miss your strength and your leadership and your caring about Illinois government. And Ruth Munson, I know you're over there next to Pat Lindner and I know this isn't an

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easy day for you. And you may be the one person that has surpassed Suzie Bassi in one single trait and that's okay. You... you care about this place as much as anybody I've ever met and I know you're good on business issues and you're good on manufacturing issues and you're good on computer technology, we all go to you. But what I've always admired about you is your ability to handle and finesse and massage and represent a very diverse district and that's not easy. And you get a lot of push from different people saying we have to do this and we have to do that and you have to do this, but you, I think, reveled in that diversity and you enjoyed that diversity and you represented a very diverse district exceptionally well and that's not easy to do in this climate and in this process. So, thank you and I'm... we will see more, I hope, someday from Ruth Munson, if she so chooses. And then Carolyn Krause, I... so many people talked about your strengths and whether it's electricity or whether it's health care, your background as a mayor. One of the things I like about Carolyn... liked about Carolyn in her role is we all get comfortable and... a lot of times we get comfortable in our roles, whether it's Leader whether it's Speaker whatever it is we may do in life, that's not always a good thing. You don't learn when you get comfortable and you don't get challenged when you're too comfortable and you're set in your ways. Carolyn, you don't let... you don't know... and I mean this in the most positive, complimentary way... you don't allow people to always get in their comfort zone and stay in their comfort zone and I think that's a good thing, 'cause it's good to

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push and prod and that's how people get better and you did that for our caucus and you did this... did that for this General Assembly and thank you for that. I... This is... this is maybe the toughest one, talking about Brent. And it's, you know, as Mark Beaubien said, it's not goodbye. Mark Beaubien, I... he had... didn't tell the whole story. They do get up at 6:00 every morning and I live with them. And they get up every morning, they sit down there and talk, but the reason they get up so early is most of the time they are in... at home in their pajamas by 5:30 every night and are usually asleep by about 6:15 or maybe 6:30 on a crazy night. So, that's why they get up so early. I... and indulge me for a minute. I've known Brent since we first ran, back in 1992. We met at a little restaurant called The Williamsburg and I had no idea who Brent Hassert was, I didn't even know what I was doing running. I really wasn't sure what I should be doing or not doing and by chance we ended up meeting at a... we had a mutual friend introduce us that we we're running in adjacent districts and really from 1992 on 'til today... 'til today, Brent Hassert and I have talked on the phone every morning, probably sometime after 6:00 and it doesn't stop there. I probably talk to Brent sometimes once a day, sometimes five (5) times a day. I... quite frankly, probably more than I talk to my wife in many, many cases. Been a lot of comments about Brent's language at times. I will tell you a pretty funny story and Genie, my wife, thinks it's hilarious as do my kids now, at age twelve (12) and fifteen (15). But when I... when we first got elected, we were talking every morning and I

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had a speaker phone in my car and I would call Brent every morning and my kids at the time were, you know, two (2) and five (5) or one (1) and four (4) and we were going... I was taking them over to a place they stayed for preschool and Brent and I would be talking and they would be riding in the car and inevitably the language would get a little salty, to say the least. And so, every morning after this happened a few times, not every morning, but a lot of mornings my kids would say, dad, when are you going to call that man who swears all the time? And they, of course, have grown to know Brent Hassert and count Brent as almost like an uncle to them and is a very good friend to my kids as well. I do want to say this about Brent, in all seriousness, he and... he alone cares more about this caucus and this institution than he lets on. He has this tough exterior and he is tough, he's as tough a guy as I've ever met for so many reasons, but he has done more for this caucus on the House Republican side than anyone will ever know. He does things that you don't know about that are good for this caucus; he's done some things that you've known about that are good for this caucus. He's never asked for anything in return. He's never looked for any glory. He's never looked for any limelight. He's never looked for any accolades. He has simply every day come into work, since he's been the Deputy Leader, and said, what can I do to make this caucus better? What can I do to help anybody in this caucus that has a problem? What can I do to further this caucus along? Always putting our caucus, on the Republican side, first, above his own

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initiatives or his own agenda, whether it was on legislation or it was on policy or it was on big picture, he always said, what's the most important thing for our caucus? And we don't thank a person like that enough and we don't thank Brent enough because he has been always first and foremost concerned about this caucus. As Mark Beaubien said, he has an incredible political mind. I have... I think the relationship has been I've always referred... deferred to Brent over the years as to what's best politically as opposed to maybe what I thought 'cause he's got that kind of mind and it's a perfect mind for those of you that are looking from a business perspective as to whether Brent would be... could... with you or for you. He has as good of read on this place as anybody I know. So, Brent, as Mark said, it's going to be a different relationship; it's going to be a little different perspective, but it is in some ways a sad day, but in many ways, it's an exciting day, because I think for you it's an opportunity to go do something you will be very good at. You will represent your clients very well and you will continue to hear about this caucus and all Members of the General Assembly. So, Mr. Speaker, I assume that everybody's been added to this that wants to be, even Ron Stephens. So, thank you and Brent, best of luck."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, Deputy Republican Leader, Mr. Brent Hassert."

Hassert: "Thank... thank you. Probably in my sixteen (16) years down here I haven't spoke too much on this floor and I don't intend to make this long. First of all, I want to



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thank Speaker Madigan for helping me pursue another career. So, and in all due respect, this... I know this... I never take this game personally. Heather and Shaw down there in the... on the Democratic staff side, I, you know, want to also thank you for helping me pursue another career. And again, we've joked about this and I really don't... a loss is a loss and then, but what's more important is that I've had a great sixteen (16) years down here with all of you, both Democrat and Republican. Obviously, my Republican side, you heard some of my... was kind of surprised I didn't have to sponsor my own Resolution after listening to some of my colleagues. But it all... it has been a great time. I enjoyed every single one of you. It's been fun. This institution is way above any one of us and it's... it's an honor and proud to serve with everyone here, even in the good and the bad. And right now, we've been going through some bad, but I do realize that after this you all will see some sunshine after this cloud is lifted from this Capitol Complex. But again, and I want to thank everybody, in particular staff. They were... they're the ones that really make our lives much more doable down here and makes this much more responsive and makes us look a lot better than we sometimes are. And to my Leader, Tom Cross. Tom and I, as you said, we've been friends and I had to pay each one of his kids a quarter every time I swore. I think I've started their college fund for them. So, again, I'm going to miss this process, but I won't be too far away and again, I want to thank every single one of you both... on both sides of the aisle and for everything that you've done

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for me and listened to me and tolerated some of my little personality traits that occasionally is a little abrasive, a little bit strong, a little bit cut to the chase. I'm not going to change. I hope that I get a thirty-day grace period in my new life, that I have a transitional time so if I walk up to you and insult you or do something that's really... there is going to be a nice Brent Hassert sooner or later come out of the shell. So, again, thank you and God bless you all."

Speaker Lyons: "All those in favor for the adoption of House Resolution 1676 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, by unanimous consent, House Resolution 1676 is adopted. Clerk, Agreed Resolution."

Clerk Bolin: "House Resolution 1693, offered by Speaker Madigan."

Speaker Lyons: "All those in favor for the adoption of the Resolution signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes'... are we... Mr. Clerk. In the opinion of the Chair, the 'ayes' have it. And House Resolution 16... What was the agreed number, Mr. Clerk? 1693, is hereby declared adopted. Representative Lindner, we're going to get back to the... to yours... to your congratulatory Amendment... Resolution, but we are going to go through the... we have a couple of Death Resolutions that we want to do now. People have been waiting patiently for this. We have House Resolution 1662. Mr. Clerk."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Resolution 1662, offered by Representative Miller."

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former State Representative and State Senator, William "Bill" Shaw of Dolton, who recently passed away; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Shaw was born as a twin, July 31, 1937 in Hope, Arkansas, to McKinley and Gertrude Shaw; he was the fifth of six siblings; at an early age, the family relocated to Chicago, where he completed his formal education and continued his spiritual growth; as an adult, he united with the Grant Memorial AME Church; and

WHEREAS, William Shaw and his wife, Shirley, raised three children, Gina, Victor Andre, and Shawn, on Chicago's Southside, providing them with love and a first hand taste for the political atmosphere of the day; as a teen, always working side by side with his twin, Robert, William discovered a passion for politics and government; he took the political astuteness he learned on Chicago's Westside with him when he relocated to the Southside; serving in various positions in government over the years, William found numerous avenues to help others; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, after many years in local government, William Shaw was sworn into the State legislature as Representative of the 34th District; after the re-districting following the 1990 Census, he moved further south to the Village of Dolton, where he successfully ran for the Illinois Senate, representing the 15th District; at the urging of the community, Senator Shaw ran for Mayor of Dolton and, in 1997, was elected the village's first African-American mayor; he worked tirelessly in both houses

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of the General Assembly to pass legislation that positively impacted the lives of his constituents, including legislation that created the Illinois Donor Program within the Illinois Secretary of State's office; one of the efforts he was most proud of was the ground breaking legislation he and Senator Emil Jones passed mandating that African-American history be taught in all Illinois public schools; and

WHEREAS, William Shaw served as a member of the Senate Environment & Energy Committee and the Education Committee while at the Statehouse; as a member of the Senate Local Government Committee, he was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Historic Pullman District on Chicago's Southside; during his tenure as Senator, he was truly one who brought home the bacon, securing millions in funding that improved the quality of life and services throughout the 15th District, including the building of the Melanie Fitness Center, a state-of-the-art health and fitness center; and

WHEREAS, William Shaw was well known as a people person who loved gathering a group of politically aware people around him to discuss, and often argue, current political issues; he was a mentor, a teacher, a champion, and a father figure for many aspiring to serve in government; as a legislator and mayor he made youth, education, and health issues high priorities; his desire was to provide computers for every school in his district, which he did; and

WHEREAS, As mayor of Dolton, William Shaw founded the Mayor William "Bill" Shaw's Youth Leadership Academy, which

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mentors junior and senior high school students in the development of their public service commitment; he awarded numerous scholarships to college bound students and donated Village land to the Park District to build the Dolton Little League "Field of Dreams"; near and dear to his heart was the Village's "Crossroads to Health" Annual Cancer Walk, raising awareness for the need for more funding to find a cure; the money raised goes to the Jennifer S. Fallick Cancer Center, which provides social and support services for families of cancer patients; and

WHEREAS, William Shaw was known to work across both party and racial lines to bring about positive results; his desire was that Dolton be a first class place for families to live; he was a mayor with an open door policy and a hands-on leader who could often be seen riding through the Village checking on the community he loved; during snow season, it was not unusual to see him behind the wheel of a truck plowing the streets, a feat that made his family and staff very nervous; and

WHEREAS, The phrase "Home Is Where the Heart Is" described William Shaw's consummate love for Dolton; he believed in inclusion and appointed the Village's first African-American police chief, the first female and African-American village attorney, and the first African-American chief of staff; he had the village build a beautiful waterfall at the corner of Lincoln and Park, held the summer Cascade of Jazz events in front of the village hall, and encouraged numerous businesses to make Dolton their home; and

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WHEREAS, William Shaw's dynamic, visionary leadership, coupled with his passion for seniors, led him to secure funding to modernize the Dorchester Senior Center and Banquet Facility; his most recent success was securing a contract with Food-4-Less supermarket to locate at Sibley and Greenwood, where construction is now in progress; and

WHEREAS, William Shaw's concern for global issues has always been evident; he and the Village frequently hosted Mayor Kofi Adjei Ntim of Kadjebi, Ghana, Dolton's sister city; many discussions centered on how Dolton could help build a library for their children; in 2007, Mayor Shaw sent a delegation of four to Ghana to better understand their culture and customs, as well as attend their 50th anniversary of independence from British rule; in the late 1990s, Mayor Shaw welcomed to the Village another African dignitary, His Royal Highness, Oba Aromolaran II, Owa of Ijeshaland, Nigeria; and

WHEREAS, Just days after catastrophic Hurricane Katrina blasted New Orleans and its surrounding areas, William Shaw organized a relief effort that provided twenty-two truckloads of food and supplies to the victims; he held a similar drive to provide help for the victims of Haiti's devastating flood; and

WHEREAS, An avid golfer, and to let him tell it, "the best in Illinois", William Shaw was known to challenge all comers; in his retirement from the legislature, he spent a good portion of his time with his twin brother and friends accompanying him to various golf courses around Chicago, or

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to his Orlando home, to enjoy the sun and shoot a few rounds; and

WHEREAS, Well-known as culinary experts, William Shaw and his brother Robert had daily and weekly cook-off competitions on recipes from the Food Channel; of the two, the Mayor was indeed the better golfer, but despite the mayor's denial, his twin brother Robert holds the cook-off title; and

WHEREAS, Mayor William Shaw often spoke of how blessed he was; he began his journey in Hope, Arkansas, and took his final bow in Dolton, Illinois; all the critically important work he did in-between allowed him to leave behind an impressive legacy; his accomplishments are forever etched in time; when God called his name, Mayor Shaw passed away quietly in his Dolton home; and

WHEREAS, His parents, as well as three brothers, preceded him in death; he was also preceded in death by Melanie Green, for whom he was a loving father figure; and

WHEREAS, At his time of his passing and by his side were his long time and truly dedicated companion, Ms. Deborah Green; his twin brother and closet confidant, Commissioner Robert Shaw; and his faithful son, Victor Andre Shaw; he is also survived by his sister, Bobby Shaw Brown; his daughter, Gina; his son, Shawn; his granddaughters, Ashley Staples and Asante Norton; his grandson and namesake, William "Little Bill" Skyler Shaw; and his hundreds of other family members and friends; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn,

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along with his family and friends, the passing of William "Bill" Shaw; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of William "Bill" Shaw as a symbol of our sincere sympathy."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Miller."

Miller: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this Resolution, to some who know local politics my way, probably surprises quite a few that I would introduce this Resolution, but it's only appropriate. For those who know south suburban politics and my coming in, myself and Bill Shaw were political adversaries. And we fought each other and we won a few races that we'd been able, I think, to bring some good people in different offices. But what most folks don't know is that our conflicts, our differences, between me and the Shaw brothers began and ended on the political landscape and that was it. That was it. I remember going to many establishments, local watering holes and such, and we were extremely very cordial and actually we'd have a chuckle or two (2) or a laugh or just sort of... just sort of... just talk a little bit. And a lot of folks didn't know that, didn't know that about him. And I think at some point he understood that at some point the future is us and those who he passes his wisdom. And the one thing about the Shaw brothers and I have to say it like that because they were twins... they are twins and they're close, extremely close, as some of the Members of the chamber will probably articulate better than I could. But when political folks who wanted to come after them,



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would say, well, you know, I'm going to come after the Shaw and Mayor Shaw is this and Mayor Shaw is that, okay, fine. So, how are you going to win? Because if you talk about any respect out of any political opponent, they were a very, very political astute... he was a very political astute individual. And you had to bring it on if you were going to try to take these guys on. You couldn't play, you couldn't joke around, you couldn't say all of these wonderful things about yourself and bad things about them and whatever. You had to bring it on. And if anybody who understood and respect the political process to its fullest degree, it was really Bill Shaw. And the mere fact that some candidates would come to them or come to us and say, well, we want to try to, you know, do something, no, you had to have your A game on. And I say that because that's respecting him as a former State Representative, as a former Senator and he was the mayor of Dolton, 'til the end, where my dental practice is. And I respected him for that and I respected and told individuals that, hey, they know what to do; they know how to do it. And, if anything is, you have to respect them. And so what that does is goes beyond, and particularly in African-American circles, how to campaign, how to become an elected official, how to basically do the right things to get elected. And I think that's the legacy that in all of us have to appreciate and understand. That, at some point, we're going to have elections, at some point people may want to take us out, at some point... but I've learned lessons from them and lessons from him that I think will carry on with my successor and

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those behind me. The other point I want to make about Bill Shaw was or is, is the fact that he understood fairness. There are many lobbyists here that there are companies that they would lobby for was not representative of the community. Simply stated, there wasn't many African-American lawyers... African-American lobbyists... African-American lawyers. This is what Bill Shaw advocated for. That if you're going to come to our communities, then maybe, hey, how about having somebody who looks like us, somebody who represents our... who understood us. That's only fair; that's only, you know, that's... that's just fair. And it's particularly if you're asking for our support, our vote, our understanding. That is something that Bill Shaw put to folks that I am appreciative of. And last thing, before I turn it over to the other Members, I remember when I first ran, my dad, God rest his soul, say, you know, congratulations, David. Or you know, who are you... You know, of course I'm for you. Who you running against? Well, I'm running against the Shaw brothers. And dad turned around and said, well, son, good luck. You know, and of course he loved me, but the one thing he did say was that the Shaws, Bill Shaw, would put it to him. My dad is of that ilk and that generation where racism... he's from Mississippi, my dad... Bill Shaw's from Arkansas... was very visual to him. So, he understood what Bill Shaw was coming from and the truth is, those same values that Bill Shaw had, that my dad had, that I carry forth within me, lives on. And so, I would like to add Members of the General

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Assembly to this Resolution and have a moment of silence at the right... at the right time."

Speaker Lyons: "The Clerk will add all Members and we do have a couple more speakers before we have our moment. The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Mary Flowers."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Bill Shaw was my friend. I met Bill Shaw when I was campaigning in 1983. And when we came here to Springfield, I was elected in 1985, I was sworn in in 1985, he was like a big brother to me. His birthday was July 31 and my birthday was July 31. I would just say... I would always say that I was thirty (30) years younger. I remember the arguments and we argued every day, every day we argued about something. And it was a... it was a history lesson listening to this man talk about the things that he had to go through when he was in Arkansas. And then he left Arkansas and how he was on the west side of the City of Chicago, all the things and the insults and the humiliation that he had to go through. And how he was damned determined, damned determined to make life better. He wanted the world to know that he was here, his brother was here. He wanted the world to know that his mother and father was to be respected because he remembered when they were not. He was damned determined to make this world a better place. So, I want to thank you, Representative Miller, because he would not have expected that. He would have been pleasantly surprised to hear you say those wonderful things about him and everything you said was true. Everything you said was true. I'm looking at this

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number... this House Resolution 1662 and I'm reminded of when I went into labor. Bill Shaw and Monique Davis stood outside that door and Monique wanted to leave me. She wanted to leave me at the hospital by myself and Bill said, 'I'll be damned if you do. I got to stay here until someone else come.' And he was there. And then, after I had my baby, what he thought about carrying her bottles and the pushing the buggy, it was... it just gave him all the joy in the world. He said, 'she's our future. We've got to take care of Makeda. We got to protect Makeda.' He felt that way not only about my child but everybody's child, black, white, yellow, green. He was the first one that I ever heard to say that we... there is no white America, no black America, there is the America. That's what... he was the first one that I've ever heard to articulate how racism has destroyed this country. When Mayor Shaw became mayor of Dolton, he was so proud of that. He was proud to be the first black mayor because he was trying to... or he was determined that he was going to do the same thing in the City of Dolton to make those people just as proud of Dolton as we were of the City of Chicago. That's the reason why he built that beautiful waterfall. That's the reason why he had the fest. After his stepdaughter Melanie died, he wanted everyone to be healthy and happy. That's the reason why he built the Melanie Center. But I just want to say that in regards to health care, when Senator Shaw lost his brother because of a decision that was made by an insurance person that worked for an HMO. He was the first one in this state to bring up the fact that HMOs should be

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eradicated because they did not have the best interests of the people in mind. He will always believe that that caused his brother's death, because that insurance company denied his brother the medically necessary treatment that he needed. When Bill Shaw passed the legislation in regards to African-American history, it was important to him that people knew that we made contributions to this country, to this world and it wasn't being taught in the schools and so, therefore, a lot of young people didn't have any respect because they did not read about themselves in the history book. They didn't think there was any contributions that African Americans made. He was very proud of that legislation. I'm going to miss my friend, Bill Shaw. And as I was about to say that that House Resolution 1662, my daughter was born... her birthday is 6, 26 and it's just amazing to me. I'm going to miss my friend, Bill Shaw. I call Monique Davis now and tell her, I said, Monique, my phone should be ringing with all this stuff that's going on in this state. You know, I miss the arguments. I don't have anybody to talk to, no one to debate the issues to... discuss and to talk about the difficult days or what all we need to do in order to prepare for the future, to prepare an agenda for the legislation for the upcoming year. That's what he would be talking about now. We need to be doing this, we need to be doing that and why don't you do this and why... He was good for telling everybody what they all... what they need to be do... need to do. And his brother... his brother, you couldn't have one without the other. And people really

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misunderstood these two (2) men, but they were great people. Bill was and Bob is. And I just want to say in closing, that this man made Presidents, he made the first U.S. Senator here... African-American Senator from the State of Illinois. And he did walk with kings and queens and had anyone ever told him in his lifetime that he would have done all of that, he would have laughed at them, but instead, he was very proud of the contributions that he's made, not only to this country but other countries. I remember being with him when we were sending those truckloads of food and clothes and boxes of stuff down to New Orleans and how unconscionable he think... he was talking about what was going on in Louisiana and all the things that he wanted to do to try to make this world a better place. But I do want to say that this world is a better place because Bill lived. Thank you very much. And I appreciate you, Representative Miller, for bringing forth this Resolution. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will miss Bill Shaw. I remember traveling from Chicago to Springfield with Bill and Mary and they would argue all the time. Whatever position one took, one decided he or she was taking the opposite position, but it made for a wonderful, joyous ride because it was all in friendship. And those of you who remember Bill, you would know that a great deal of legislative ideas passed through Play It Again Sam's. Bill would hold court in a little bar across the street called Play It Again Sam's and I ran into the

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owner this morning, he got out of his car as I got out of mine, Sam Pennijonavich, and Sam and Bill were good friends and if you couldn't find Bill in his office, you would know where he was. You talk about the rough and tumble politics of Illinois, Bill and his brother epitomize it. When he was leaving the House of Representatives and going to the Senate, people said to him that he couldn't win, but he said this first, too, 'oh, yes, I can.' He ran for the Senate in the suburbs. I think he was the first African-American Senator from the suburbs of Illinois. Black History, Bill was very dedicated to the educational system in our state and he knew that children who didn't know their history were like trees who didn't have any roots. He continued to promote the idea of the necessity of Black History, but we found that it wasn't monitored and in many places it wasn't implemented and based upon that, I passed a Bill that mandates the Amistad Commission and that commission takes off where Bill's Bill left off. This Bill mandated Black History and the Amistad Commission will monitor the teaching of Black History. I believe that, as the mayor of Dolton, those people will be... they will surely miss Bill because not only did he attempt and make sure there was beauty in Dolton, every summer there would be the most wonderful, musical... oh, I don't know... outdoor events, from symphonies to jazz to blues and he did this because he loved people. Any Republican in this building, any Democrat in this building who knew Bill Shaw, you knew that he loved people. Can't you hear his infectious laugh? When you hear that laughter, even after you two (2) might

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have had a bitter disagreement, but he could bring about the most infectious laughter and let you know that by Bill... because of Bill Shaw, you were still a very much loved person. You know, Bill stood and he served here with some great people. When Mary talked about the fact that he made a U.S. Senator from Illinois, that was Carol Moseley Braun. There were some great people who served here with Bill Shaw and Bill was certainly one of them. He was one of the finest people that I have ever met. Who else could think of a Jesse Jackson to run against Jesse Jackson? Jesse Jackson, Jr. had an opponent and his name was Jesse Jackson, Jr. and Bill Shaw thought of that. We don't ever do that, do we? I think the people of Illinois have been very well served by his service given to the people of Illinois and I think if each of us read a little part of what he attempted to do as a State Representative, we will want to be better people and also, enjoy and share an infectious laugh. Thank you, Bill, for being with us. Thank you, David Miller, for bringing this Resolution forward. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask for a moment on behalf of the State Representative, State Senator, Mr. Mayor, Bill Shaw. Rest in peace, Bill Shaw. All those in favor of the adoption of House Resolution 1662 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. With all Members being cosponsors, House Resolution 1662 is adopted. Representative Connie Howard, did you have an announcement before we do the Wyvetter Younge Resolution? Representative Connie Howard."



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Howard: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. All of us in the Illinois General Assembly are certainly looking forward to the ending of the 95th General Assembly and the beginning of the 96th and while we're doing that, there are a number of individuals we are making certain understand... understand that we will miss them. Those who are not returning, those who have made decisions to not return and those who will move on to other phases in their lives. And of course, our good thoughts will be with all of our colleagues with whom we have toiled in the vineyards and with whom we have worked to improve the quality of life for the people of our great state. But as well, our best wishes go to another group of very important persons without whom our tasks would probably have been much more difficult. I speak of our departing members of our staffs who have worked tirelessly, been at our beck and call and have devotedly aided us as we've gone about the business of acting in the best interests of our constituents. I'm certain that we will miss them all and that we wish each of them good fortune as they leave this chamber and begin another life. Democratic staffers are: Mike Thomson, Liz Brown, Michael Cassidy, Bob Denean, and Jude McKenna. As we celebrate these individuals, you are all, in this chamber, invited to partake of cake in the D-Wing of the Stratton Building. And that'll be on Thursday. At this time, I ask you to help me to demonstrate our appreciation for their commitment. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, it's now the intention of the Chair to do the Death Resolution for one of our dearest

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Members, Wyvetter Younge. So, I'll ask staff again to please retire to the back, Members to please stand up. Mr. Clerk, House Resolution 1661."

Clerk Mahoney: "House Resolution 1661, offered by Representative Madigan.

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are deeply saddened to learn of the death of our friend and colleague, State Representative Wyvetter H. Younge of East St. Louis, who passed away on December 26, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Wyvetter Younge was born in St. Louis, Missouri on August 23, 1930; she was a lifelong resident of East St. Louis and one of the longest serving, dedicated, and passionate legislators in history of the Illinois House of Representatives; she was first elected to the House in 1974 and served until her death; and

WHEREAS, She built a strong reputation for working hard to provide members of her community with better schools and educational opportunities, affordable housing, and access to health care; she also was a zealous advocate for revitalizing her district through economic development and the creation of new job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, She became well-known for her responsive constituent service office and her intense focus on issues affecting the quality of life for district residents; she was so committed to serving her constituents, raising her family, and caring for her late husband when he became seriously ill, that she drove 90 miles each way to Springfield every day that the House was in session so that she could return to her community and help those in need; and

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WHEREAS, She believed that education was the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and that every child deserves a quality education regardless of family income; a cornerstone of her work was her fight for better educational opportunities for the State's children; among the education initiatives she supported was the recalculation of the school funding formula to increase funding for Illinois' downstate schools; she fought valiantly to establish the East St. Louis Community College Center in East St. Louis; she was a visionary who initiated the concept of the East St. Louis Action Research Project as a means of providing tangible resources from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to East St. Louis and the surrounding communities; because of her commitment to providing better opportunities for future generations, Wyvetter Younge Middle School in East St. Louis was named in her honor; and

WHEREAS, She fought for health care access for all because she knew in her heart that being healthy was not only for the privileged, but a basic right; an advocate for working families and senior citizens, she supported legislation requiring HMO reform and health care coverage for children and low-income working families; she co-sponsored legislation to reduce the cost of prescription drugs, expanded home-based elder care programs, and broadened the State's family and medical leave laws; and

WHEREAS, She was a living witness to the civil rights movement and a fighter for equality; she provided assistance to the NAACP in its efforts to ensure that minority workers were

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employed on the Martin Luther King Bridge rebuilding project; and

WHEREAS, She made urban revitalization and rebuilding inner-city economies among her top priorities; she fought for better paying jobs, because she understood that good jobs help build strong communities and healthy families; she ardently sought funding for a variety of redevelopment projects across her district, including the expansion of the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities in East St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, She was a tireless supporter of the East St. Louis Business Incubator, industrial parks, and other job-creating efforts; she drafted job-producing legislation like the "Economic Bill of Rights" to seek alternatives to welfare dependency and to increase the State's power to provide economic justice; she backed measures to increase the minimum wage and make child care more affordable; and

WHEREAS, She passed a bill that paved the way for the development of the Metro East Citizens Land Cooperative, a citizen-owned, for-profit community investment corporation intent on connecting Illinois residents with land and technology through ownership; she helped the cooperative to revive and expand an East St. Louis renaissance plan developed in the 1970s by famed architect R. Buckminster Fuller; and

WHEREAS, She worked tirelessly to combat poverty, to care for the sick and the homeless, and to help those battling addiction problems because she felt our society is judged by how we treat our least fortunate; and

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WHEREAS, She was not only focused on finding big solutions to big problems, but also dedicated to helping every individual constituent in need, oftentimes giving constituents cash from her wallet to pay their utility bills; and

WHEREAS, Her efforts on behalf of the State of Illinois have garnered recognition from a wide array of organizations, including the Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville School of Nursing, United Auto Workers, Katherine Dunham Centers, Illinois Agricultural Association, American Council Society, NAACP, East St. Louis School District 189, and Gamma Phi Delta; and

WHEREAS, She graduated from Lincoln Senior High School in East St. Louis; she studied at Hampton Institute in Virginia, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in 1951; she furthered her education by earning a law degree in 1953 from St. Louis University School of Law and later a Master of Law degree from Washington University School of Law in 1972; and

WHEREAS, From 1955 to 1957, she served as an assistant circuit attorney in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, She was affiliated with the Missouri Bar Association and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; and

WHEREAS, During her historic tenure in the House, she was named Assistant House Democratic Leader in 1995 and Assistant Majority Leader in 2005, and served as one of the most respected and effective legislators in State history; and

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WHEREAS, She was a beloved community leader; the residents of East St. Louis and other surrounding Metro East communities as well as all the people of Illinois have benefitted immensely from her unquestioned professionalism, enormous integrity, deep principles, compassionate advocacy, and untiring work ethic; and

WHEREAS, She was preceded in death by her husband of 49 years, Richard Younge, Sr.; her daughter, Ruth Younge; and her sister, Cecile Edwards; and

WHEREAS, Representative Younge is survived by her daughter, Margaret Hewitt of East St. Louis; her son, Torque Younge of East St. Louis; her two stepsons, Richard Younge, Jr. of Lithonia, Georgia, and Roland Younge of St. Louis, Missouri; her sister, Ruth H. Hill of O'Fallon, Illinois; her two brothers, Roscoe Hoover of St. Louis, Missouri and Herbert Hoover of Lutz, Florida; her eight grandchildren; and her many friends and constituents; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with her friends, family, and constituents, the passing of a truly caring individual and monumental presence in her community, State Representative Wyvetter H. Younge; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to the family of State Representative Wyvetter Younge as a symbol of our sincere sympathy and sorrow for their loss."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Tom Holbrook."

Holbrook: "Thank you... thank you, Speaker. How somebody lives their lives, I think, tells you more about them than

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anything else. I knew Wyvetter since I was a child. I grew up with her in East St. Louis. And I can tell you, she loved this Legislature. She was the second largest (sic-longest) serving person here. Her focus in legislation was jobs, helping the poor, education; all things that would make life better for someone else. Especially to give people the tools to help have a better life. But a lot of the nation may not know is that in the thirty (30) or so years when she served here she had some young children when she was first elected and she would go home every night just so those kids would wake up with their mother that morning or go to bed with them. She never did not go home. They were... she had an opportunity that she could go take care of her kids and those kids they all remember that. They talked about it several times when I spoke to them at the wake or at the funeral. I think all of us saw here in the last few years how she'd slipped considerably, both physically and emotionally. Her husband, Richard, had had a series of strokes and I think, you know, I don't know if the good Lord can help a man... a person enough for someone that's lost a loved one or is caring for a loved one. And she would go home every night to take care of Richard and she'd also go by and take care of her constituents at her office. When we were out of Session, she'd always be there for them. She'd take money out of her own pocket and try to help them out. But this last year, I think, the absolute epitome of what she stood for happened. There was a knock at her door and the young man that came in, he assaulted her, robbed her at gunpoint

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of seven dollars (\$7). And I called up Wyvetter and I said, are you okay? Is there anything I can do? And she said, 'no, I'm just praying for that poor man that he never has to does... do that again, that he doesn't have a need to do this. Hopefully, he'll get a good job.' I think that says it all. And at the end of this, I'd like to see all of our Members of this chamber added to this Resolution. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Mr. Clerk, add all Members as cosponsors of this Resolution. The Chair recognizes Representative Eddie Jackson."

Jackson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Resolution read, it shows you the commitment that Wyvetter Younge had to her family as well as her constituents. She loved both, passionately."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Debbie Graham."

Graham: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first got here, Representative Younge was my seatmate. And I would sit there and I'd be asking the kind of questions... You know, how when you get someplace, you're talking to yourself but you're talking out loud. And I would really think that Wyvetter was not paying attention. And I said, I can't believe these people are talking and just moving all around and I just don't understand what's going on. She said, 'when you sit there long enough, you'll be able to hear over the noise.' And I said, oh, I didn't know I was talking that loud. She said, 'I hear everything.' And I said... And then she found out that I was a little high-spirited and stuff like that. And so, I had a reaction to



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a Bill one day and she begin to tell me one of her stories of how she struck out and was really battling over legislation that she had and I think I brought out the warrior in her at that moment. She said, 'And yeah, I was telling them I'm not going to sit down and I'm not going to do this.' And someone gave me part of story that she had put in a piece of legislation for something back in East St. Louis and Marlow said it the other day so poetically, the center of the universe, and she put it in for like what half the budget would be and people would say, now, why would she put that in for half of what the budget would be? She said, 'if they found the money to spend on everything else, they could find the money to spend on this project in East St. Louis. She was always, as I sat there with her those two (2) years, she always answered the questions. She was always writing letters back to people who wrote her and she would take her time to write it. And I would say, you know, were you a doctor in your past life? She said, 'I don't know. I just... you know, my staff couldn't understand my writing, so I've been doing this for years.' She was really kind. She answered all the questions and there was just one time I saw her get fired up and I think she beat me that day in being, you know, a little aggressive. So, I'm really appreciative of the time that I sat next to her. I got to understand that she heard everything in this room. She looked as if she wasn't paying attention, but she could play back to you everything you said while she sat there in that chair. And she really, really, really took to heart some of the remarks

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that was made and... and she would always encourage me. Don't get upset. That's a part of the political process. This is... this is what's done down here. Cause she was the first person to try to help me get my legs under me, so I'm really appreciative of that and I'm really going to miss her. So, God bless the spirit of Wyvetter Younge."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Marlow Colvin."

Colvin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Growing up, my dad used to tell my brothers and I that the real mark of an individual's character is not codified in the words that they use, but it's in their deeds. And I can't think of anyone at this moment and since Wyvetter has passed, who's really encapsulates the spirit of that statement. Wyvetter was a symbol of consistency. She was the model of grace and she was a perfect example of what it means to be committed to something. Wyvetter came here every day, in the last seven (7) years that I've been here and witnessed her, and worked on... so hard on behalf of the people of East St. Louis. And she didn't do it in a selfish way. I think Wyvetter worked so hard on behalf of the people of East St. Louis who have so many special needs that she thought that if she could pass good legislation and policy that would help East St. Louis, it would help people all across the state. Her efforts have gone... have not gone unnoticed. Her hard work, her diligence is a model for all of us in how we should conduct ourselves in the legislative process. We're in... living in very precarious times here in the State Government. As you listen to the radio and television, constituents all across the state, if not the country, who

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compare public service... public service, and elected officials to someone just above a used car salesman, but it's people like Wyvetter Younge who blow a big hole in that theory, that public service is still respectable work. That what we do here is on behalf of other people and not ourselves. That the effort that we put in here for this season, before many of us move on and do other things in our lives, should be spent trying to make our communities as best as possible. That's going to be Wyvetter Younge's legacy. Someone who'll put everything she had into her career, into her constituents and her family, until she couldn't give anymore. Wyvetter Younge stands heads and shoulders above all those who served our great State of Illinois. Her legacy and her memory of all of us here, those she has served, those she has touched and all those who have... she's done many things for who've never even met her, will always remember that Wyvetter Younge and what she stood for was the decency in public service, what it means to give to other people. We're going to miss Wyvetter, but she'll live forever because the idea of what public service is lives through her spirit and we'll certainly miss her."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Careen Gordon."

Gordon: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was okay to talk on the floor until I heard what Representative Holbrook had to say about Representative Younge's words about the young man who broke into her home. I've sat within ten (10) feet of Representative Younge since I came down here. And every morning she would say, good morning and she would smile, her very gentle, quiet smile and she would say, good

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afternoon, when it was time for that and she would say, how are you, but she was a true lady. And I watched her every single day. But she taught me the most important.. important lesson I've ever learned being a Member of the General Assembly and that is to put your district first at all times. And I've learned that in a very, very harsh and difficult way from Representative Younge. In my first year down here, as you all know we are watched very, very closely with the Bills that come up on the screen, and it was one of Representative Younge's Bills that probably had one of those horrible, horrible three-letter words in it like fee or tax, as we all know that we've run away from and we're told to vote 'no' and hit your red button and no, no, as the targets and all those horrible things that we run away from. But Representative Younge had one of those Bills. And so staff was running around and telling us to vote 'no' and so, we had to vote 'no' on this Bill. And Representative Younge was standing right there next to me and she was watching the board and her Bill was not getting the 60 votes that it needed to pass. And she stood there and it was probably the loudest that I ever heard her get and she said, 'This is an important Bill. It will help a lot of people.' And she saw my 'red' vote here on my desk and while she was saying it to the room, it felt like she was saying it to me. It was like someone was stabbing me in the heart when this wonderful, gentle woman who was doing nothing but trying to bring East St. Louis out of the problems that it was having by passing this Bill, doing nothing but representing her constituents, first and

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foremost, every single day that she was a Member of this Legislature. That's all she was doing. And I had to press this 'red' button on my desk. So, the Bill failed, but she did get it held on Postponed Consideration and thank, God, it passed later and went on to the Senate. Now, a couple weeks later I had a Bill, a very easy Bill that was going to pass with flying colors, very easy to do and everybody hit their 'green' buttons. And Representative Younge got out of her chair and came over here and tapped me on my sleeve and she said, 'Look, I voted for your Bill.' To show me that she was voting 'yes', as if I had personally not voted for her Bill for some reason. And on that day I told my staff person, listen, I don't care if I'm down here for a day, six (6) months, if I lose the next election or if I'm here for the rest of my life, I will never ever, ever, ever vote 'no' on another Bill that Representative Wyvetter Younge sponsors. And they said, okay, yeah, that's fine. I said, no, let me makes this very, very clear to you. And while Representative Colvin made the point of half of the state budget that she may have filed to go to East St. Louis, the example that I used that day for Representative Younge and I said to the staff person, I said, if Representative Younge files a Bill that says the entire state budget goes to East St. Louis, I go, I will be a Chief cosponsor of that Bill, I said, and every dime can go to that woman. And that very, very tough lesson that I learned that day was, you represent your district, first and foremost, because they're the ones who gave you the job. They're the ones who sent you here. And that

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wonderful, gentle woman from East St. Louis came here every single day to do that job and she taught me that. Someone as stubborn and hardheaded as I was learned that from the icon that was the word that Representative Jackson used yesterday... from that piece of... that wonderful woman that... that human being who we now know is living history, who saw all the changes during her life, who made true history by being a Member of this Body. That's what I learned from that wonderful, gentle woman who said, good morning in that wonderful, gentle voice to me every single day that she was here. And I will truly miss her and that beautiful smile. So, God bless you, Representative Younge. You may not have known that you made an impact on me, but you did. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Art Turner."

Turner: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I probably, other than Gary and the Speaker and Barbara, served longer with Wyvetter Younge than any other Member here. And I, too, remember my first trip here. Let me first of all start by saying, as others have said, she was indeed a role model. She was a role model for young women; she was a role model for mothers and certainly, a role model for us as politicians because she lived this job with the utmost integrity. She... and I knew her husband Richard both very well, in fact, we had a chance during the summers to go fishing together and socialize together, back when we used to do a lot of that here in the General Assembly. They were two (2) fine, outstanding citizens, both attorneys, from the City of East St. Louis. Wyvetter

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and I used to debate all the time about who represented the poorest people in the State of Illinois and then Lou Jones would echo in, 'I've got the poorest.', because she had all of the CHA developments in the City of Chicago. And I would tell Wyvetter, you know, what... with... and our numbers we're fairly close in terms of North Lawndale and East St. Louis. And so, we would debate all the time about, you know, what's the solution? How do you get people out of poverty? How do you put people up and give them new hope, new direction? And Wyvetter would have all these ideas. I don't know where they were coming from. I know some probably came from the Center for Joint Political Studies. And in our caucus meetings, Wyvetter would bring in educators. I remember a guy from Howard University and I know Monique will remember Dr. Cleveland Chandler who talked about economic development and was talking about enterprise zones long before these issues were being discussed. And she not only brought him once, she brought him three (3), four (4) times, 'cause she wanted to make certain that we understood this issue and how self-help is really the answer. Casino gaming in this state never would have happened, and I know there are a lot of gaming supporters here, but it was Wyvetter Younge that convinced me, who like Mr. Bradley believes that this is something we could do without, but she was so determined that this was going to be the answer for East St. Louis. That the proceeds from the boat, that money, will be able to turn that town around; it's really going to make a difference and it was for that reason that I and many of the caucus

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Members voted to have casino gambling in this state. One of the other things that I remember most about her is that she was determined... she really believed in the Black Caucus and she was determined that we would have a building. Now, it must have been six (6) years, Wyvetter would walk by and just as she walked by other Members' desks, she'd give me a number for the local real estate company here in Springfield and said if there's a building for sale and we need to buy it and we need to buy it. And I'd go, Wyvetter, we didn't even have a treasury at that time. And she said, we need this building; we should have a place. And eventually, we started raising a little money and she still... she didn't give up. Finally, she spotted the house where the caucus is today, over on College Street. And as the Lord saw it to happen, we were able to cut a deal, buy the house, the house is in fact paid for. I remember Wyvetter, the look on her face when we had the dedication. We had the kids come over from Peoria to sing at that dedication. It was just joy in her eyes. It wasn't a week later Wyvetter was back by my desk saying we need more land; we need a bigger house. She's showing me more real estate for, you know, additional buildings, but that was Wyvetter. You know, that house was a nice, little house, but she wanted something bigger for us. And so, I would, you know, just to let the Body know and echo what we've heard earlier, she was... I should say this, she was also most notable for probably having more pilot programs than anybody else in the General Assembly. I mean, when we couldn't pass a big one and Wyvetter had this great big



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idea, ultimately, the negotiations went, well, we'll give a pilot program for East St. Louis. So, she had more pilot programs than any other Member here in the General Assembly and a lot of those programs did, in fact, go into effect today. One other issue was mine subsidence. And I'll never forget that one because when I first heard about mine subsidence coming from the City of Chicago, I didn't have a clue and I also realized that very few of the Members here in the General Assembly knew what she was talking about... about mine subsidence. Six (6) years later here's major legislation because, as you know, those from downstate, this is a big issue. What does mine subsidence have to do with East St. Louis? Not a lot, but Wyvetter was that type of critical thinker who could see... and as I tell people... she was light years ahead of most of us here in this Assembly. She's going to be missed truly, but she... her legacy will live on. For those who've served with her, I know we will never forget her and certainly we wish her family, Godspeed, as we will remember Wyvetter Younge."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Al Riley."

Riley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Al. I'm going to really miss that. That was the greeting that my former seatmate would give to me every morning. And you know, I'm pretty early, I'm pretty prompt. She'd always beat me here. You know, I guess there's something to be said for serendipity. How did I get this seat right here? I was basically shown an organizational chart with all of the seats when I came down here a couple years ago and they said here it is, you know, you make the decision where you

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want to sit. Well, there were only three (3) open spots. So, I looked and I said, is that Wyvetter Younge's spot? And they said yes. I said, well, that's where I want to sit. I remember coming down here and testifying on behalf of some appropriations for cancer research back in the '80s. Former Senator Art Berman was on the board of the organization I worked for and while down here, you know, I went to see, you know, different people and I remember Wyvetter. Getting a chance to sit next to her was something that was very special to me. She was a font of history. Even some of... those of us who think we know a little bit about policy, I mean, she had forgotten things that I never knew. And I'm going to miss her. I'm really going to miss her spirit, her erudition and how much she cared about her district. And so, with that, let me just say, you know, my condolences of course to the family and Godspeed, Wyvetter Younge and ivy over the wall."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I arrived in the Illinois General Assembly, I found and met Wyvetter Younge to be one of the passionate Legislators. I believe she had more Postponed Considerations because 'green' votes would fly until her legislation appeared and that's when we couldn't get the 60 votes. I saw tears squeeze from her eye as she felt her community was not being respected nor were dollars directed that way, but woe, what happened. Wyvetter got a riverboat. She finally got a riverboat. She insisted that the Legislators adhere to our own law that it is to help depressed areas. That's where

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riverboats are supposed to be, in a depressed area. Wyvetter got her riverboat. During her term of service, she lost a beautiful young daughter in a very serious, fatal accident. I don't know if I could have returned after that, but Wyvetter returned. She had great faith in God and she didn't mind sharing that experience or those experiences with you. When Richard became extremely ill, she would push him in a wheelchair, even to conferences that we or she wanted to attend. Wyvetter showed us what a gracious lady, what a woman who was a leader who didn't have to impress upon anyone that I'm a leader, she lived the role. Her community loved her. People tried to take her seat many times, don't think it was an easy ride, but Wyvetter always came back and we were always so proud and happy for her. East St. Louis could not have had a better Legislator, one who really cared about the children, about the senior citizens, about men, employment, unemployment and that's how she... her role here in the Legislator... Legislature. She... that was her role every day, not to impress upon you what a great speech she could make, not to impress upon you that somebody told them they were great, but she came here every day dedicated to the community that sent her and she didn't pretend to be anything but that. Godspeed to her family and good luck to her replacement. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Ron Stephens."

Stephens: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Younge and I, for my entire career here, had districts that bordered each other and our districts couldn't have been more

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unalike, as different as night and day. And I frequently stood on this House Floor and against legislation that she was promoting. I was against... she was for the riverboat, I was against it. She was for Metro Link, I was against it. And Representative Gordon, I guess I wasn't as kind as you. I told our staff, don't ever vote for one of her Bills. That's how different our districts were and I believe that I was... well, I was way over the top on many occasions. I not only ridiculed some of her legislation, I believe that I was guilty of ridiculing her. And Ladies and Gentlemen, not once... not once in her lifetime... did she ever say a kind... an unkind word about me. As a matter of fact, when I would greet her, she always had a pleasant word to say. Representative, she greeted me, good morning and good afternoon. She was, and remains in our memory, a lady and I, too, will miss her."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative John Fritchey."

Fritchey: "Thank you, Speaker. Sometimes the people you should listen to the most are the ones that say the least. And while that doesn't apply to me, it does apply to Wyvetter. When I got here about thirteen (13) years ago, Wyvetter had already been here over two (2) decades. And my office over in the Stratton in the same little cluster in the corner over there and after my first term, I wound up taking what would have been Wyvetter's office as she moved to a corner office. And as you could imagine, for somebody that had been here close to a quarter century, she had a lot of stuff in her office. And I was helping her move files and other things from one to the other. I mean, Wyvetter, you

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know, why do you keep coming back? You've been down here twenty-five (25) years almost. And she looked at me, without hesitating she said five (5) words that I will never forget. And she looked at me and she said, 'People are counting on me.' And she said it as if it was as true as anything you could hear. And I looked at her, I didn't even ask a follow up question, to this... ask again and I just kind of walked away and let the words sink in. More often than not, you know, I'll be one of the first people that get down here on the floor in the morning. I usually come down here to get my work done and if anybody is going to be on the floor when I get here, it will be Wyvetter. She's sitting over there. I would never see her sitting there reading a newspaper online, you know, I'd always see her doing something. And Wyvetter, what are you doing? I'm working for my constituents. That was almost always her answer and that's... was almost an honest answer every time. And so, you know, I'd look at Wyvetter doing her work and it'd make me think about what I'm doing. And all I will say is I'll never forget and I hope none of us ever forget why it is we're here. Wyvetter never did. People were counting on her, people count on us. Wyvetter's constituents knew they could count on her and they knew they could count on her to be a noble and gracious fighter, because she believed in what they believed in and the reason that they believed in her was because she believed in them. Representative Jackson, you and I haven't had a chance to meet yet and I trust you have some large feet 'cause you've got some mighty big shoes to fill. Wyvetter

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was a unique, unique woman. I didn't know her nearly as well as I wish I would have, but every time she imparted something on me, I remembered it. Her friends will miss her, her constituents will miss her, and this institution will miss her, too. Representatives like Wyvetter Younge do not come often. They should be remembered when they do. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Lou Lang."

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I've been here for twenty-one years and when I got to this House chamber, Wyvetter Younge was, of course, here and it never occurred to me that she would be leaving before me. I assumed she would be here forever. She was a lady who worked tirelessly for her district as you heard, but always about her district. Many of us work hard for our districts, but we'll come to the floor with a Bill that somebody has brought us, that they're interested in, maybe it's a special interest. You never saw Wyvetter Younge have a Bill for a special interest. The only interests she had were the hundred and ten thousand (110,000) people that lived in her district. That's all Wyvetter Younge cared about. And oftentimes, she would come to this floor with Bills that many thought were outrageous and over the top and too costly. And if you read those Bills carefully, whether you liked them or not, you had to come to the conclusion that regardless of whether we liked the Bill, it was always about her district, her people, how to improve the lives of the people that lived in her community and we all know that's a community that could use significant help

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from the State of Illinois. She was loyal to the people she represented and she was committed to the people she represented. Many times on this floor, she would be abused by Members of this House, not in a personal way, but because her Bills were very strong, her Bills were very costly in an effort to help her district. And I recall many times, some years ago, when Jim McPike would stand on the floor and defend Wyvetter Younge and I remember Jay Hoffman doing it, I remember myself doing it and others and she deserved that defense because all she ever did was try to pass legislation to help her district. So, she was much maligned on this floor for no reason whatsoever. She, of course, was interested in gaming and when I became chairman of the House Gaming Committee, Wyvetter Younge would come to visit me once in awhile. We all know her to be a person who virtually always was sitting at her chair, but once a week she would walk over to my chair and hand me a different Bill on gaming and it was always about her community. And so, for the first year or two (2) when she would come over here, it would be about two (2) new riverboats for East St. Louis, two (2) new riverboats for East St. Louis. I'd say, Wyvetter, you know I'm a big supporter of gaming, anyone that's wants a riverboat ought to have one, but you already have one and you want two (2)? She says, 'Yes, I have a very poor community. We need the money. We need two (2) new riverboats'. And after a year or two (2) of trying that, she came over to me one day and she had some papers under her arm and she said, 'Representative, I've given up the idea of having two (2)

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new riverboats for East St. Louis'. And I said, well, I think that's good, because I don't think it's going to happen. So, she said, 'So, I want one new riverboat for East St. Louis'. And to her dying day, that was something she felt was necessary for her district. She was also a reliable colleague, not only on this side of the aisle, but I think for many, but particularly on this side of the aisle, she would vote for any Bill any of us on this side of the aisle had. It didn't make any difference if we voted against her last Bill and sometimes we did. Any Bill we had, if we went to Wyvetter and said, my district needs it. She never said, well, you didn't vote for my Bill, as Representative Gordon said, she would say, 'Fine, I'll vote for your Bill. If it's important to you; it's important to me'. And you know, not everybody on this floor is like that and not everybody that's like that can be replaced. And so, we will surely miss Wyvetter Younge. In the end, I think it's important to know, Wyvetter, that we've learned much from you about how to do our job, about quiet leadership, about what we must do to improve this chamber and I think we should move forward and not forget those lessons we learned from Wyvetter Younge. Wyvetter, rest in peace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Eddie Washington to close."

Washington: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say, my colleagues, you really bless me and annoy me with the things you had to say about Ms. Younge. I served under Wyvetter when I was in my twenties and I worked under her in East St. Louis. Though I understand her district was



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much bigger than East St. Louis, but she always was aware that East St. Louis was the least of these. And you, if you go to church, you know, they speak of you not done until the least of these, you've not done it unto me. And so, she practiced what she preached. And I was borne out of her spirit and I took that spirit to mean via Chicago via Waukegan. And I want to believe of my mentors and my teachers and guides that have shaped me in my life that she did, that I've been a hypocrite and a liar for what they gave to me and I've been consistent in the way she showed me in everything I've done since I left East St. Louis in the '80s. But I remember when we were confronting Monsanto Chemical Company and American Bottles because the citizens of East St. Louis seemingly to was paying more for their water and it seemed like we had inherited environmental racism as it related to chemical pollution in the south end of East St. Louis. And I remembered the paint and the residue that would be imbedded in the paint on the number of citizens' home and it was State Representative Younge who got me to organize the residents of the south end and before we got the Mary Brown Center and we set down with her and other officials to address that issue with Monsanto Chemical Company, because for some reason, more often than not, some people devalue black lives as if they're less important and not as valuable. And so, Wyvetter was a standard-bearer to say that it didn't matter what others called us it's what we answer to. And so, she didn't answer to a lot of things and I'd like to think that I know she was proud of me 'cause we talked about it and I'd say

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to my brother Eddie, who is sitting over there, surely if there were ghosts, there would be one in that seat for the many years that she served here. And I know she's very watchful in death as she was in life, as to doing things right and for my colleagues to show the unselfishness of her, that she didn't go for a tit for a tat and even if you didn't see it her way, she still supported the fact that you needed that support. And I remember meeting Buckminster Fuller and the geodesic dome. Representative Lang is right. Even... even young as I was, Ms. Younge's ideas seemed really terrestrial sometimes, you know, really out there. But if you listened to her, she had a lot to say and you could learn a lot and when she talked about a dome being over East St. Louis, I'm trying to imagine, even though I'm looking at this prototype that was in our office on 22nd and State. Eddie, I don't know if you ever saw it, but yeah... but it was something to see, to think about a city under a glass. It had its merits; it had its day. Buckminster Fuller is gone and so is Wyvetter. And I want to conclude with this. East St. Louis, in spite of its misgiving, people, some of the most richest black coal and you know, coal is a diamond made under intense pressure. The pressures are great to grow up in East St. Louis. You never can attach yourself to things because there were no things. When Mayor Field and them had it in the good ole' days, they sucked the life blood out of East St. Louis so when Mayor William Mason became... William became the first mayor, then Mason. They, too, were trying to follow the patterns of other people, but didn't realize there was no

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center to be had. So, the more they grabb the more they took the more the acceleration of East St. Louis became more apparented that it was the stepchild of Illinois and should be an embarrassment that we can do more for it to make it a lot better than what it is for the people who live there. After all, this is a democracy and they are American citizens. Wyvetter never, never, never relinquished the battle. Even in death, she never, never relinquished the battle. I never saw her do anything wrong. She never directed me in my path of growing up to do anything but right and to be a servant. And I'm proud to be borne out of that spirit, but I'm even more proud that you've given another dimension 'cause I never came to Springfield. I stayed in East St. Louis and helped her. I never saw what she would go through here and never did I think that I would join her here on this floor. I never thought that would be my fate, but I'm here and I will carry on. And Eddie, I suggest that you carry on and you help me help you to carry on in her spirit, because she did many great things. She never gave up regardless of the odds. I miss her already and her family need not be forgotten for some of you in this room who claimed you loved her, then if you love her, you must reach back to the branches that she left. They could use some help and to know that you're there and that you will put your efforts forth to help them, because we truly lost a true servant today. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask for a moment of silence. Rest in peace, Wyvetter Younge. All those in

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favor for the adoption of House Resolution 1661 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. In the opinion of the Chair, is by unanimous consent with all Members being cosponsors, House Resolution 1661 is adopted. Ladies and Gentlemen, we have one of our last Agreed Resolutions here on a happy note, but a bittersweet happy note. That Resolution... House Resolution 1668, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognized the Lady from... the Lady from DuPage, Representative Patti Bellock."

Bellock: "Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and all the Members of the House. Last but certainly not least we want to honor Pat Lindner today. She's still talking. Anyways, I wanted to start out with ten (10) years ago I came to this chamber and came a couple of days early and took over Judy Biggert's seat and Pat Lindner was one of the first people I met in the back row, I think, like the sixth row and she and three (3) or four (4) of the other girls called themselves 'Vinnie girls' because Vince Persico sat there and all those girls sat in that row with him. And they were so nice to me. I did not know one soul in this entire place and they even asked me to come down and take a picture with them. Vinnie's girls, I didn't even know what Vinnie meant. But anyways, from that day on, Pat and I became very close friends and colleagues on the House Floor. We had a lot of issues that were important to Pat. She's done so much. I think a lot of people don't even understand all she's done for grandparents' rights, for foster children, child support, especially for family law and for making sure that there's equal justice and

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representation for people who don't have enough money to go to court, of which she was recently honored by the Equal Justice Group especially for women and children who have no representation. Pat has devoted a lot of time to that, especially also to juvenile justice reform where had she had put efforts the last couple of years in championing those rights and special legislation that we have passed in this Legislature if... over the last couple of years that's been model legislation. Not only was she determined to make a change there in the daytime on the floor, she also was extremely active in COWL, wanting to have a good time and establishing the Capitol Capers Review. I think for her most historic, outside of always being a partner with Joe Lyons, was the partnership with Barack Obama in one of the acts that we have on record and tape. Anyways, what can you say about a woman like Pat? Her mother was one of the first U.S. Congressman in the United States and Pat went on to be a trailblazer just like her mother was. She always took on projects with energy, as all of you know, in enthusiastic response and a spirit of a Broadway star just like Judy Garland but with the steadfastness and the seriousness of a lawyer like Perry Mason. Some of us have heard the story of how one day Pat, when she was a new Legislator, actually stood on the top of her desk to argue a point with her friend, Bill Black. I've heard that story over a hundred (100) times. Pat's a woman of many, many accomplishments. I don't know if everybody knows, not only a Legislator, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a lawyer, a golfer, a tremendous skier still and yes, almost a Broadway

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singing star when she first started out. She had to continue that career here in Capitol Capers, but we were glad to have her here with us. Most of all, Pat has been a true, true friend and I think what everybody would call, on both sides of the aisle, a real bipartisan Legislator. Every day she'd be talking about somebody on this side of the aisle or that side of the aisle and the legislation that she was working on with them and how they were going to pass this to make a change in Illinois government. They say that a good leader is the one who people trust, who people respect, who people believe in and they are inspired by, and I think that is Patricia 'Patsy' Reid Lindner. Those words describe her. She is a woman of her word who came to Springfield sixteen (16) years ago with a passion to make a good change in public policy in Illinois. I think sixteen (16) years later that those changes have been made and she leaves today confident that she did her job well, not only for all the people of Illinois, but especially for the people of her district who she worked hard for every day of those sixteen (16) years. I think it's appropriate to end with a little paraphrase of a song, Pat, thanks for the memories. Good luck."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes Representative Al Riley."

Riley: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Judy Garland? More like Julie Andrews, I think. Pat, it's been great to serve with you. The epitome of someone who can come on both sides of the aisle and get the work done. It's been a pleasure to serve with you on a couple of committees and we will miss those

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beautiful tones in the work that you've done with COWL.  
Good luck to you and it's great been... to serve with you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes Representative Robert Pritchard, Bob Pritchard."

Pritchard: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, Representative Washington talked about coming from a district with another Representative and how he had worked with her through those years and developed a relationship. It was my privilege back in the 1990s to be in the district that Pat Lindner represented and to be one of her constituents and to become aware of her passion for so many family-oriented issues. And then to serve in this Body with her and to work on some of those issues is a lesson for all of us, that our work is never done, that we can never do things alone, and that life is full of memories that we cherish, the progress that we make, the hopes that we realize. Pat has championed a lot of issues that are important to the people of Illinois and she has done it with a flair with a concern with relationships that we will all remember. Pat, as a neighboring Representative, you will always be welcome back in this chamber and I look forward for the opportunity someday to represent your issues here and to continue the work for families, and youth, and health care. Thank you for your years."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Karen May."

May: "Pat, you are so talented and theatrical and gregarious and lively, I feel like the words of the COWL theme song were written for you. It's that... you really are there for us. And I have to share with people that my pet name for

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you is 'Suga' because she's from Sugar Grove, I really don't know where it is or much about Sugar Grove, but not shack... saccharine sugar and sweets and feminine and all that but 'Suga' with attitude and theatrical and Broadway. And I have to thank you for your service on the Environmental Health Committee, your record was not totally stellar, your voting record there, but I do thank you for listening to things and for being open about that. But certainly, everyone remembers you for your talent and your working on the COWL Capers. But you just didn't perform being the star of the show along with Barbara Flynn Currie, it's a toss-up there, we're going to miss you but we hope you'll come back. But you helped us write it and that camaraderie was there as we wrote it, we came up with the ideas and anyone who's participated in that knows how friendships and respect for each other come from that and it does help us deal with the stressur... the pressure and the stress that's down here. People may think that there is none, but I think we all know that there is. Perhaps the... as you're sending us your notes and you're saying that, you know, you're going to Jamaica and you're... I don't know, Florida and everywhere it seems like. You've just got this world planned. I don't think you're going to miss us at all, but we really are going to miss you. And I learned another side of you when we were in Turkey. Not only did we buy rugs and jewelry together and Pat grabbed me by the arm and she said you've been here, you've been to the Grand Bazaar. I want... I want you to show me how to buy jewelry at the Grand Bazaar and what a student she was. I



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mean, you know, we were fighting over the same necklaces; we were asking them if they had two (2). It was... it was sort of the other side of Pat we didn't know about and one day, we were all back, I got lost after we were finding some more jewelry starts and everyone was waiting and they said, where's Pat? And I said, I don't know, I'd made a wrong turn. So, we went back. I found my way to the jewelry store and she'd bought everything in sight, you know, and the men said, boy, do you know quality. Do you know how to... you know, do you know how to negotiate on the price? And she brought back more bling and I think with your new retired life, with your husband as you travel, you're going to be able to wear all this... this bling that you got in Turkey and... because it was just... it was just a little too... too much, the diamonds and the gold in the jewelry for the House Floor. But I do wish you well and as we talk about the fun things, we have to say also that you are totally respected as a lawyer and as such an advocate for juvenile justice and family law that... that Patti mentioned also. So, you're fun loving, but you're respected. So, I would sum it up by saying that your spirit has made this chamber a brighter place, but your work made the state a better place for all citizens. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative David Winters."

Winters: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it's not every day that a Member retires, not only from the Illinois House of Representatives but from an even more exclusive club. Pat Lindner is one of the

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charter members of the Century Club. And for those newer Members who aren't aware of it, you have to have a hundred 'no' votes on a Bill that you've managed to get through committee, usually unanimously, and then get a hundred 'no' votes on the House Floor. And in the research, after I was embarrassed to... to have that happen to me, I asked around on the floor and they said, oh yeah, there's lots of people here that have done that: Bob Churchill, Deputy Leader at one point, Pat Lindner. So, she joined us as one of the charter members and because it had happened before we formed the club, before we got the statuery that we now present to the latest recipient and honoree, I don't even know the Bill that was such a turkey that it managed to get a hundred 'no' votes. But Pat, I'm sure has stories about that and it is a symbol that you believe enough in a Bill that you bring it forward and then it blows up in your face. You live it down and continue on for years afterwards. You are a very respected Member of the chamber. I have had the honor also of not only singing in COWL with her, but sharing a few hours over at the old Bauer's with Roger McAuliffe and around the piano. I think Dan Burke might have been playing it at that time. But Pat you have a great reputation down here and I certainly hope you enjoy your retirement and you will always be on the plaque as a member of the Century Club."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Rosemary Mulligan."

Mulligan: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pat is also another one of our class that came in together in 1993 and is leaving and she's been a very dear colleague of mine. We share many

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similar views and many similar mishaps. A little issue with trial lawyers when we became in the Majority. There were six (6) of us that weren't always with Lee at that time and also when we were freshmen there was a little story that not everybody knew who did it, but Pat and Brent Hassert, Doug Hoeft, who's no longer with us and Bill Brady decided one evening after we had gone to dinner that we had to do some mischief. We were here in overtime and we saw the elephant that's around town that has the big martini glass that's like ten (10) feet tall and we decided we were going to see if we could get that elephant and we went and asked the people who had it if we could borrow the elephant and Brent went back and got Terry Deering's truck and we towed the elephant. We were going to put it in Speaker Madigan's parking space, but then we found out that the Speaker really didn't have a parking space because he was dropped off, so we decided it would go in Jim McPike's parking space. And we were going around trying to find it and Bill Brady who was then Tom Cross's roommate would go everywhere and say, 'Hi, I'm Tom Cross. Could you tell us where Jim McPike's parking space was.' And we pulled the elephant up and Doug and Brent told Pat and I to hold it as they took it off the trailer and they left us standing there holding this elephant in the driveway that was sliding down, so that the elephant... you know, stay there, we'll be back with blocks to keep the elephant in the parking space. So, Pat and I stood there for a little while and they did come back, thank goodness, and then we went back over to what was the bar across the street that

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was Sam's and who should we run into right off the bat but Jim McPike. And we stood there kind of laughing and Lynn Sweet from the Sun-Times, who wanted to know the next day who did it and we didn't actually tell and then we delivered peanuts to the House Floor and we really had a good time that year. Pat's always been a great colleague. I've appreciated everything she's done. She's so talented. Her family is a family that does public service. She has grandchildren with the most unusual and wonderful names, if you ever have talked to her about it. She serves on a lot of interesting committees. I've always valued the fact that she comes back and talks to me about things in juvenile justice that are so important. We don't all have time to serve on all committees, but she's always been someone who's come to me and said, could you help us on this? We could do the vote... if you would give us a help on the vote and she would vote for really unusual Bills that may be tough Bills, but they were good Bills, I think, for young people in Illinois. She's always been part of that. She's served on a lot of really interesting committees and she's always been what I would call one of the most upbeat people that are here on the floor. If you're having a bad day, Pat will always smile at you and give you a lot of good cheer, always has good words to say about everybody. Obviously, a stellar member of the COWL show. There are a couple of stories that Pat... about Pat that I won't go into on things that we've done when we haven't been here that might not read so good in the record, so we won't tell that. But I do know that as someone that came into my

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class and someone I've shared a lot of good times with and someone who lives next door to Patti Bellock and I, I'm going to miss the nights when she knocks on our door and says, hey, have you got some wine in the refrigerator? Can I come in and talk to you for a while? And I really am going to miss Pat not being there because she's always been just a good friend, a good Member, someone that really cares about Illinois and always had done a great job in a... very upbeat way and are always been a valuable Member, I think, to the Illinois General Assembly, to the Conference of Women Legislators. I share a lot of good issues with Pat and I will miss her tremendously."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Tim Schmitz."

Schmitz: "Thank you, Speaker. Representative Lindner, I heard someone say earlier, Patsy, that's what I first heard when I won my race back in '98 and they said, oh, you'll be going to Springfield with Patsy. And I said, who's Patsy? And they said, well, Patricia. And I said, oh, so, it's Patsy Patricia Reid Lindner. So, I got that ingrained back in my head back in '98 and we've come a long way through that. As your colleague there in our neighboring district, you had a different Senator and a brighter time and then we... redistricting came and we shared Senators and I'm telling you, I'm going to miss you at some of those events and forums where you, Ruth and I were able to just kind of huddle and be the steady voice of the group. We had some... we had some good times and I'll never forget when we were riding home one of those times that you needed a ride, 'cause George wouldn't come pick you up or something, but

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you said, I'm not as crazy, conservative as they said out in the district that I was. So, Patsy, I'll take that as a compliment from your esteemed colleague. You took on some tough issues, you battled them hard from '92 on 'til the day you're going to leave today and I will always respect you for your service here, the issues you took on, the point of view that you shared with me, and you almost swayed me once... once, but you've done a great job here and it's been a pleasure serving with you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Elaine Nekritz."

Nekritz: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of my colleagues have talked about Pat's work in the chamber and I won't repeat any of that. So, it was my good fortune to travel to Turkey, as Representative May mentioned, with Pat this summer and learned a lot of things while I was in Turkey and one of those I would like to repeat to you today. So, on behalf of the people of the State of Illinois and on behalf of the people in this chamber and the citizens of your district, tey shakur la duriyam, Representative Lindner."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Shane Cultra."

Cultra: "Thank you. Pat Lindner will certainly be remembered as a queen of Capitol Capers. She... her office was right next to mine when I first got here and I was on the Jud II Committee and not being a lawyer, she made that committee bearable for me. She certainly had a long and distinguished legislative career, but I think probably the important thing is as we get older in life is the relationships and friendships which we form. And I'd just

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like to say that I consider Pat Lindner a friend and I'm sure as she moves on to other things, she will continue to do things in style, grace and beauty. And Pat, thank you very much."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Mary Flowers."

Flowers: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Lindner, you are going to be missed and you are truly respected. I'm so sorry that we allowed something to interfere with our relationship because I remember when you first came in, I was looking forward to us having lots of fun together and I did have a lot of fun with you, Representative, because you encouraged me to join the Comedy Capers and I had a great time when I did so. And I just want to say that I knew that the Charter Club really needed a more distinguished member and so, I take pride in making sure that you were there and thank you for sharing and having me to have... allowing me to have that opportunity. But you will be missed and I hope you and your family the best and I hope you enjoy your retirement and God bless you. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Suzie Bassi."

Bassi: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As somebody said earlier, the queen of Capitol Capers is leaving the Capitol. So, having been one of the most stellar Members of the General Assembly during my tenure down here, Pat, you've got to be sure that that alumni act gets off the ground. We absolutely need you there. But beyond that, it's like... it's like Carolyn Krause, your... your strong, ethical background, your... your moral compass, you've been a mentor, you've always had Kleenex when I needed it to which I

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couldn't thank you enough for. I'm losing a dancing partner besides a friend and a colleague and God bless you, kiddo. Best of luck."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Jil Tracy."

Tracy: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Patsy is one classy lady. She's one smart lady and she's one very fun lady. I had the privilege of being on a road trip with Pat and it's one I will never forget. But she also has been a great role model for me and I've watched her give legal advice and she's so astute in so many ways. And she's just one of those complete packages that doesn't come along very many times in a lifetime. But having grown up in southern Illinois, I thought I'd just give you a little story about how we've learned how diverse Illinois is. And I grew up in southern Illinois, which is down by Cairo, and Anna and Carbondale. However, I've serve the west central Illinois and I've also learned that oftentimes people from Chicago and the suburbs and the like think that all downstate is southern Illinois. But I prided myself in losing my southern Illinois accent, I thought, even though my mother was an English teacher, I thought I had lost my southern Illinois accent. And so when I was talking to Pat, when I first came, about camouflage jackets, she said, what kind of jackets? I said, camouflage. She said, what kind of jackets? I said, you don't know what camouflage is? Ask Beaubien, he knows what camouflage is. She goes, what is camouflage? So, I proceeded to tell her it was, you know, I said, the Army knows what camouflage is. So, anyway, since then Pat and I have deepened our appreciation and she



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knows now what camouflage is. So, that's what I taught you. Patty... Patsy, we'll miss you so much. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Harry Osterman."

Osterman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to congratulate Pat on a incredible career here. You know, Pat, your mom was in Congress and also in show biz. I think she would be very proud of you and how you brought great levity to this process, but also great dedication. I am going to miss coming over to talk to you about a gun Bill and watch you shrink in your chair as I approach, looking over to see if the NRA is watching us have a conversation. But I really appreciate your dedication for all these years. You know, anyone that... today there's been a lot of talk about the people that are leaving us, some somber, some light. Anyone that got Representative Lindner's Christmas card with the pictures of her family taken all over the world knows that Pat and her family and her husband are going to enjoy incredible times. That's the way to leave this Body, with dedication. One of the first recollections I have of meeting Pat and her husband was not on this floor but at a Rolling Stone concert at the Aragon Ballroom. I was in the gallery in a skybox and Pat, of course, was right down in the middle of the mosh pit on the floor having the time of her life. So, Pat, congratulations for all your work. I hope there's many concerts in your future."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Bob Biggins."

Biggins: "You know, Mr. Speak... Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, sometimes we spend a lot of time talking to the

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people that are leaving, but I thought that it might be good to reflect back on a moment about fifteen (15), sixteen (16) years ago here when the retiring Ms. Lindner, Representative Lindner for now, in response to something that occurred, decided to stand upon her desk and sing a song I think it was about something.. Maybe we could ask.. could she maybe duplicate that one more time for those that weren't here and many of the people in the room were not here then. It was a visual and a musical artistic treat and you don't see them.. we don't see that many people stand on desks during the day.. during the day, I mean, you know. But she's always been great, obviously, very, very pleasant all the time. I don't know how she does that. And she's been helpful to anybody that ever asked her for help. She's been a great friend and we'll surely miss her and her contributions to our state will not be forgotten. So, Patricia, you've done a great job."

Speaker Lyons: "The Lady from Peoria, Representative Krupa."

Krupa: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the joy and privilege of being the person that may.. I think there are three (3) of us that have just joined this Assembly in the last few days and had a historic vote to make. But I wanted to say that I have been so impressed with.. particularly Representative Lindner, the other Representatives, Krause and Ruth Munson and people that have shown me the genuine and authentic leadership that has made this state something to be proud of. I know in the news media we have been laughed at, as an Assembly and as a state, but I am proud

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to... that I have new friends here and one of them is Representative Lindner. So, thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "Representative Beth Coulson."

Coulson: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen. You know, Patsy is my roommate and has been for eleven (11) years. So, I won't tell all the stories about the late night talks and the many, many things that we've done together. I've, unfortunately, never been able to take a trip with her, but I do... I will say that anytime any of us have ever needed her to go and do something, to take something to Leadership, Pat always did it. She may not have always agreed with us, but she always did it. She is the epitome of what a Leader should be. She listens, she's a great mentor and I'm going to stop now because otherwise I will break up, but I just want to say, have a great rest of your life. Thank you."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Lady from Cook, Representative Monique Davis."

Davis, M.: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pat, I just want to say, I don't know what we're going to do without you for the COWL Capers they put on every two (2) years. Who's going to be the famous actress who supports those antics that are put on? You will? Thank you. I think it's really important for all of us to realize that Pat Lindner as an attorney she has been a very strong voice in reference to juvenile justice and also in reference to the... what is that other committee... Juvenile Justice Committee and there's another really important legal committee. Jud I, that's what it is. Thank you, Barbara Flynn Currie. Jud I, she was on

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there and be... Jud II, the criminal one. She's always with the criminal one. Right, okay. Thank you so much, Pat. We appreciate your insight on those committees. We appreciate your ability to tell what effects certain legislation would have. And we also appreciate the support you often offered on very critical pieces of legislation to our community and you had great understanding and great insight. And we wish you the very best. I know you and your family are going to enjoy your lives, as you stated to me, your plans are to enjoy the rest of your life. So, go with Godspeed and know that you will certainly be missed in the Illinois General Assembly."

Speaker Lyons: "The Chair recognizes the Assistant Republican leading la... Leader and the queen of Capitol Capers, Patricia Reid Lindner."

Lindner: "Well, I have to thank everybody for their comments. That was lovely, but first of all, Karen, at least I did not buy that belly dancing outfit that you bought. But I want to say that to me a successful life is always been interesting work, fun activities, love relationships, and spiritual sustenance. And I think all of us here know that we have probably been spending most of our time on the interesting work part and that has made us all have a lot of frantic lives. And so, I hope that maybe I will be able to live a little more unhurried life, maybe I will even be on time once in a while, I don't know. But I certainly will miss this. I leave with mixed emotions. I love to learn so as we all know this... the issues in this place and the things we learn about the process are so interesting I

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don't think there's a day that I've been here that I haven't learned something. So, I've loved that and as I said in my letter, the people here are just wonderful. We are all a family when we're down here and I hope that when we see each other in the future, we will remember that also. The diversity is just amazing and it has enriched my life to know everybody here. And I want to thank so many people that have made our lives down here great. Certainly, the staff, you know, our Republican staff, the young people on that are so hardworking and professional. Whenever I've been called by the Democrat staff, too, I have found exactly the same thing. They're hardworking young professionals. And I want to thank Wayne and Russ and all the doormen who greet us with a smile every morning. They make our lives easier too. And certainly, I'm happy to be followed by Kay Hatcher in my seat. I'm glad to have... thankful to have her here and for my secretary, Fritz, here and my district director, Tracy, at home. But I really want to thank Tom Cross for having me in Leadership all these years. I know I've given it to him every once in a while and go back and say, now, we women think this, you know and you've got to do this and got to do that. But I will say he's always been a good listener and I will mostly miss Tom's really sick sense of humor. It's really fun and that's going to be hard to be away from. But I will say, also, I want to thank my husband. As you know, my husband is a trial lawyer and that has made for some very agonizing votes for me being a Republican, but he sent me flowers this morning with this note,

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Sleeping with the enemy was great. You are my favorite Legislator. Can't wait for our future. Love, George. So, I really think that... I think that that transition... that will make this transition a little bit easier. But, you know, all... a lot of my fond memories are about the COWL Capers. It's Eileen and Patti, who started it and it was always so much fun because Patti and I would be doubled over with laughter and say, well, we've got to have this in the show. And Eileen would say, that's not funny, then we would... then not have it in. But I think the most fun was the rehearsals and seeing the hidden talent that is in this room, is just absolutely fabulous. When we first heard... I don't know if Art's still here... Art Turner... Art Turner, when we first heard him sing a tune, we all just swooned with that crooning. It was just beautiful. And Dan Burke with his piano playing, Bob Biggins with his quips, Elaine and Jil doing the splits, Barbara with her star number, Shane with his 'poor old Julie'. And Bob Molaro jumping on Karen at the end of the act. And all of you men who showed your legs during that kick line and of course, I have a special, special in my heart for Joe Lyons since we sang our first song together. With redistricting we sang There's a Place for Us and then our last song together, I Got You Babe. And I don't know about all of you, but it always put a lump in my throat when we all sang I'm Proud to be an American at the end of the thing. So, I do leave with mixed emotions, but I just have one thing to say, 'It's My Party and I'll cry if I want to, cry if I want to,

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cry if I want to. You would cry too if it happened to you.  
Bumpa, bumpa, bump, bump, bum."

Speaker Lyons: "All those in favor of the passage of House Resolution 1668 signify by saying 'yes'; those opposed say 'no'. By unanimous consent, House Resolution 1668 is adopted. Speaker Michael J. Madigan in the Chair."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Osterman. Mr. Osterman."

Osterman: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, there's... I don't know how to top that... but I also... I... we talked about staff today and I'd be remiss if I didn't congratulate Mike Cassidy on the House Democratic staff who's going into business. But I'm congratulating him more because him and his wife, Tracy, over the holidays had a little baby girl, Kate. So, if we can all give them a round of applause and wish them well."

Speaker Madigan: "Representative Osmond."

Osmond: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have one Member on our side of the aisle that we would like to say a special thank you to. She served this week. It's Representative Joan Krupa and she's done a wonderful job. She fit in very, very well with the Republican women and we took her out many times and tried to convince her to stay, but of course, she can't. So, we just wanted to say publicly, thank you, Joan, for being here."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Lang."

Lang: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two (2) quick items: first, we would like to thank Representative Wilzbach for his appearance here for the last several days. It took me twenty-one (21) years to get to my most significant vote in

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my career; it took him about an hour and a half. So, congratulations, Representative Wilzbach. Let's hear it for him. Thank you. Additionally, we have four (4) Members who are leaving us on our side of the aisle, none of which are here, but we should at least mention their names: Representative Kurt Granberg, Representative Rich Bradley, Representative Elga Jefferies, Representative Milt Patterson. I don't know if you're all listening, but we wish you all very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker."

Speaker Madigan: "Mr. Colvin."

Colvin: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a quick announcement. The Illinois House Black Caucus will meet immediately following Session for a brief meeting in Room 122B immediately following adjournment today."

Speaker Madigan: "Ladies and Gentlemen, we are prepared to adjourn this Session of the General Assembly. First, let me talk a little bit about tomorrow's ceremonies. As you all know, why tomorrow will be Inauguration Day for the Legislature. I wish to advise you that tomorrow's ceremony may take longer than we've become accustomed because we will vote again on the question of the impeachment of Governor Blagojevich. And we will vote for the recreation of the Committee of Inquiry on the impeachment of Governor Blagojevich. So, I simply wish to advise you that tomorrow's Session may be somewhat longer than you're planning and as I'm sure that most of you have plans for receptions and the time with friends and families. Please be advised that we may go much longer than you had been thinking. And if there's nothing further... Excuse me. And



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therefore, we will not have Session on Thursday. Mr. Cross."

Cross: "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the question for Members is, on the Motion... or on the vote on the Article of Impeachment, what is the Chair's... what will the Chair's intention be with respect to the ability to debate it or voice opinions on that matter and how would you... how would you allow that to take place?"

Madigan: "One quick thought I had was to say that for those that were here on Friday, participated in the debate, if they wished, they spoke. I would suggest maybe they could just not participate in debate tomorrow. For those that were not here on Friday, newly-elected people, why if they were to say that they wish to speak on the question, I think that they ought to be able to speak on the question."

Cross: "I... Well..."

Speaker Madigan: "But Tom, excuse me. You know, I'm not going to tell anybody they can't speak on the issue."

Cross: "Maybe we can... maybe Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Mapes can talk..."

Speaker Madigan: "Yeah."

Cross: "...on some procedural thing to satisfy the concerns we may have from our side. I'm not suggesting we're going to spend all day talking, but at least the right to say it..."

Speaker Madigan: "Sure."

Cross: "...is there. So, perhaps we can talk with Tim. Thank you."

Speaker Madigan: "Very good. Mr. Colvin."

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Colvin: "Just a quick procedural question. So, after the swearing-in over at UIS, we're to return here to the House chamber..."

Speaker Madigan: "No."

Colvin: "...for the vote or..."

Speaker Madigan: "No. No, that's my point. We'll be doing the voting at the University of Illinois. And again, no Session on Thursday. Again, we're ready to adjourn this Session of the General Assembly. The Chair recognizes Representative Currie."

Currie: "Thank you, Speaker. And to all the Members, it's been a wonderful Session working with each and every one of you. And I move that we stand adjourned sine die."

Speaker Madigan: "The Lady has moved that the House adjourn sine die. Those in favor say 'aye'; those opposed say 'no'. The 'ayes' have it. The House does stand adjourned sine die. Thank you."