



HR0814

LRB100 20392 ALS 35704 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to Congratulate Lou Henson on his
4 induction into the 2017 Illinois Department on Aging Senior
5 Illinoisans Hall of Fame; and

6 WHEREAS, Lou Henson spent over 41 years motivating young
7 adults in academics and competitive excellence; he took over
8 the basketball program at the University of Illinois in 1975;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Lou Henson led the Fighting Illini to 12 NCAA
11 tournament appearances, including the 1989 Final Four; his
12 overall career record stands at 779-442, which ranks him at 11
13 on the all-time winning coaches list; he has coached 12 players
14 who have gone on to NBA careers; he retired from the University
15 of Illinois in 1996; and

16 WHEREAS, Among his many accomplishments at the University
17 of Illinois, Lou Henson was known for founding the
18 nationally-known Orange Krush student organization, which he
19 began in his living room in an effort to increase student
20 involvement with the basketball program; the Orange Krush has
21 transformed into a major supporter of community charitable
22 donations; he also started the Rebounders Club as a booster

1 club for Fighting Illini men's basketball, and it provides
2 annually to charitable causes and the University of Illinois
3 basketball team; the Lou Henson National Player of the Year
4 Award was also created in his honor and is presented annually
5 to the top mid-major player in Division I college basketball;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Lou Henson has been involved with many charitable
8 organizations; while in New Mexico, he and his wife started the
9 Lou and Mary Henson Annual Community Breakfast and Reception,
10 an annual fundraising event that benefits the Las Cruces Boys
11 and Girls Club; a sport celebrity is brought in each year as a
12 guest motivational speaker; when he moved to Champaign-Urbana,
13 he became involved with the Don Moyers Boys and Girls Club; in
14 2002, the Henson family helped establish the Lou and Mary
15 Henson Endowment Scholarship Fund in memory of their late son;
16 the fund is designed to support deserving athletes for their
17 academic and athletic achievements; he has also donated dozens
18 of his trademark orange blazers to different charities, which
19 resulted in thousands of dollars being raised for different
20 causes; he has been an active participant, contributor, and
21 supporter of the American Cancer Society's "Coaches vs. Cancer"
22 campaign since its inception in 1993; nationwide, Coaches vs.
23 Cancer has raised over \$100 million for cancer research; yet
24 the greatest of his accomplishments is the influence he has had
25 in guiding young men through adversity and giving them coping

1 skills to learn and grow and face the challenges of life; and

2 WHEREAS, Lou Henson has made a significant impact with his
3 efforts to improve the lives of so many; his contributions
4 reflect the principles of respecting yesterday, supporting
5 today, and hoping for tomorrow; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 congratulate Lou Henson on his induction into the 2017 Senior
9 Illinoisans Hall of Fame, and we commend him for the meaningful
10 contributions he has made to higher education; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to Lou Henson as an expression of our esteem and
14 respect.