



HR1163

LRB100 22121 ALS 41175 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Roberta Thomas on the
4 occasion of her retirement as the Grayslake Area Public Library
5 District Director; and

6 WHEREAS, Roberta Thomas has held the position of Director
7 since 1994; her legacy encompasses many accomplishments,
8 including the opening of the library's current location; she
9 oversaw the design, construction, and transition of the library
10 from a small storefront in downtown Grayslake to a standalone,
11 multi-story location; the new building was planned, designed,
12 and constructed to meet the increasing needs of the library
13 district's population as it grew; she successfully kept the
14 project on time and under budget; her strong fiscal leadership
15 was exemplified when the construction bond was completely paid
16 on November 30, 2013; and

17 WHEREAS, Roberta Thomas fostered a dynamic service
18 environment during her tenure, which included migrating from a
19 paper card catalog to an online system with a dedicated
20 children's interface, adding a self-checkout station, and
21 installing drive-up book drops; she spearheaded the redesign of
22 various interior spaces, including the creation of the
23 TeenSpace and a community gathering area named Kent's Place;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Roberta Thomas also kept up with trends in library
3 services, met the fast-changing technological needs, and
4 connected people to the library's resources; she led the
5 library in offering free computer access and WiFi to the public
6 and in expanding the library's collection by adding digital
7 content, including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, and a
8 variety of other online research tools, such as Consumer
9 Reports, Ancestry.com. and Lynda.com; and

10 WHEREAS, Although Roberta Thomas is preparing for
11 retirement, she is not resting on her laurels; building
12 renovations are underway to accommodate new meeting and study
13 rooms, a digital studio, and the library's makerspace, The Hub;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Before stepping into the role of director, Roberta
16 Thomas began her library career as a shelver at the Palatine
17 Public Library District before transitioning into the role of
18 Reference Librarian and then Head of the Circulation and Audio
19 Visual Department; she has been one of only three directors to
20 lead the Grayslake Area Public Library since it became a public
21 body; her tenure has seen remarkable growth and construction,
22 and her fiscally conservative leadership has enabled the
23 library to accomplish its core mission, keep current with

1 changing technologies, and financially plan for the future,
2 without increasing taxes; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 congratulate Roberta Thomas on the occasion of her retirement
6 as Grayslake Area Public Library District Director, and we
7 commend her leadership and guidance; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Roberta Thomas as an expression of our esteem and
10 respect.