



HR0945

LRB101 23284 LAW 74434 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend Earnest "Ernie" Broadnax for
4 his commitment to the Elgin community as an educator and
5 historian; and

6 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax is a lifelong resident of Elgin and
7 a descendent of one of the first African American families in
8 Elgin; he was born in Elgin in 1935 and graduated from Elgin
9 High School in 1953; he attended Elgin Community College in
10 1953, where he was the first Black basketball player and an
11 award winning member of the speech team; he served in the U.S.
12 Marine Corps from 1955 to 1966; he married Eliza on February
13 28, 1965; he earned an Associate of Arts in Juvenile
14 Corrections from Elgin Community College in 1974; and

15 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax was employed jointly by the City of
16 Elgin's Parks and Recreation Department and the Fremont
17 Recreation Center, an Elgin United Way Agency, from 1967 to
18 1970; during this time, he was the first Black person to have
19 an office in Elgin City Hall; he worked at the Herrick House
20 Children's Shelter under the Illinois Department of Children
21 and Family Services from 1982 to 2000; and

22 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax served as the executive producer of

1 the documentary Project 2-3-1: A Story of Elgin's African
2 American Heritage, which premiered in 2015 before being
3 distributed to all 844 public and academic libraries in the
4 State of Illinois in partnership with the Secretary of State in
5 2016; his documentary received a number of awards, including
6 the Elgin Image Award, the Elgin Mayor's Award, the Midwest
7 Museum Association Best Practices Award, the Midwest History
8 Association Alice B. Smith Prize for Public History, and the
9 American Association of State and Local History Award of Merit;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax was the originator and narrator of
12 the trolley car tour of Elgin's historic African American
13 neighborhood; he also organized an African American Golf
14 Tournament, which was sponsored by New Hope Baptist Church and
15 held in the Elgin area, in 2004; and

16 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax has belonged and continues to
17 belong to a number of local organizations, including the Elgin
18 Housing Group, the Veterans Memorial Phase 2 Committee, and the
19 U-46 Advisory Board; he became a member the New Hope Baptist
20 Church in 1985; and

21 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax has been the recipient of several
22 honors and accolades, including the Elgin Mayor's Award in
23 2009, the Elgin Image Award in 2013, the Lasting Impact Award

1 by Elgin Community College in 2015, and the Elgin Veteran of
2 the Month Award for May 2015; he was chosen to travel to
3 Washington, D. C. to receive Gail Borden Library's 2009
4 National Medal for Museum and Library Services Award in 2010;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Ernie Broadnax serves as a community relations
7 organizer, historical guide and mentor, youth leader, and
8 storyteller; his career has focused on working with youth and
9 teens, ranging from after school programs to correctional
10 facilities; he has mentored orphaned, abandoned, and abused
11 children; he has championed human relations within the Elgin
12 community, including the Elgin Police Department, the City of
13 Elgin, the Gail Borden Public Library, School District U-46,
14 and the Elgin History Museum; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we commend Earnest "Ernie" Broadnax for his dedication to the
18 Elgin community as an educator and historian, and we wish him
19 continued success in his endeavors; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Ernie Broadnax as an expression of our esteem and
22 respect.