



HR1055

LRB100 21876 MST 39727 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize Paul Ritter for his outstanding and distinguished work regarding the reintroduction of alligator snapping turtles back into their natural habitats, with the goal of eventually bringing the species back to sustainable levels in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter, along with Dr. Brady Barr of National Geographic, designed and developed the Operation Endangered Species-Alligator Snapping Turtle program, which has received numerous grants from both public and private organizations, including State Farm Insurance and the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter has worked extensively with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources in their own alligator snapping turtle program, which includes partnerships with zoos and other animal organizations; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter's work originates from his intense love of biology, which he demonstrates daily in his job, inspiring others as a biology teacher at Pontiac Township High School in Pontiac; and

1 WHEREAS, Both Paul Ritter's turtle project and his teaching
2 skills have received numerous awards, such as the 2011 National
3 Science Teachers Association Outstanding Environmental
4 Educator of the Year; and

5 WHEREAS, Paul Ritter graduated from high school in Mendota
6 before earning a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Master of
7 Science in Secondary Science Education from Eastern Illinois
8 University; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 recognize Paul Ritter's important efforts to restore the
12 population of the alligator snapping turtle back to healthy
13 levels, and we admire his steadfast drive to inspire the future
14 generation to be good stewards of the environment; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 delivered to Paul Ritter as a symbol of our respect and esteem.