



HR1314

LRB100 24070 MST 43175 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate State Rep. Mike Fortner on his retirement and recognize his years of service to the State of Illinois; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner and his wife, Becky, have two adult children, Liz and Charles; and

7

8

WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner received a Bachelor of Arts in Math and Physics from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota and a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Physics from Brandeis University in Massachusetts; and

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner is an accomplished professor and researcher; he served as an associate professor of physics at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb for over 25 years and dedicated over 30 years as a researcher at Fermilab National Laboratory; he continues to share his knowledge and technical expertise in science through teaching and mentoring students; and

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Prior to joining the House of Representatives, Rep. Fortner served as Mayor of the City of West Chicago for six years, after serving as an alderman and a member of the

20

21

1 West Chicago Elementary District 33 School Board; and

2 WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner brought his experience in local  
3 government, teaching, and research to the General Assembly in  
4 2007 to help further serve the people of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner served 12 years in the Illinois House  
6 of Representatives for the 95th District and then the 49th  
7 Legislative District, where he contributed to dozens of bills  
8 to help our State; and

9 WHEREAS, Working at the forefront of the effort to improve  
10 the State's electric power, Rep. Fortner sponsored legislation  
11 to allow municipalities to buy power on behalf of their  
12 residents; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner protected the privacy rights of  
14 citizens against unauthorized video recording and unauthorized  
15 use of passwords on social media; and

16 WHEREAS, An environmental advocate, Rep. Fortner  
17 negotiated improvements to the way electronics are recycled; he  
18 was honored with the Environmental Leadership Award from the  
19 Illinois Environmental Council in 2013, 2016, and 2018 for his  
20 legislative work; and

1           WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner supported clean energy initiatives  
2           and held discussions with constituents, interest groups, and  
3           fellow lawmakers to gain further support for the legislation;  
4           and

5           WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner was instrumental in negotiating the  
6           Small Wireless Facilities Act in 2017, which brought high tech  
7           wireless technology to Illinois; and

8           WHEREAS, In 2018, Rep. Fortner worked to improve access to  
9           voting through automatic registration and to make the process  
10          more efficient and effective through his legislation, HB 6582;  
11          and

12          WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner was an integral force in pension  
13          reform negotiations; he brought the unfunded pension system to  
14          the forefront of discussions in the General Assembly and worked  
15          alongside fellow lawmakers to find viable solutions to help the  
16          State's fiscal future; and

17          WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner had an honest voice in debates in the  
18          House and provided technical reason to the dialogue on a  
19          balanced budget for Illinois; and

20          WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner was dedicated to improving Illinois;  
21          term limits and fair map redistricting were two top concerns

1 for him throughout his tenure in the House of Representatives,  
2 and he filed legislation to help make them a reality for our  
3 State; in 2009, he drew the winning legislative map for Ohio's  
4 redistricting, a competition that allows private citizens an  
5 opportunity to draw district lines for the Ohio House and  
6 Senate; and

7 WHEREAS, Rep. Fortner served as the voice of his  
8 constituents in Springfield and provided many resources in  
9 district to his community including his annual senior fair,  
10 summer reading programs, and informational forums on State  
11 issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Rep. Fortner has been  
13 recognized for the countless pieces of legislation he sponsored  
14 and supported and for the leader he was in the General Assembly  
15 and at home in his district; he received many awards throughout  
16 his tenure and was most recently named the 2018 Legislator of  
17 the Year by the Metro West Council of Governments; and

18 WHEREAS, With his diverse background of public service,  
19 professional work, and community service, Rep. Fortner helped  
20 make a positive difference in the lives of Illinois residents  
21 both in the 49th District community and beyond; therefore, be  
22 it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 congratulate State Rep. Mike Fortner on his retirement and  
4 recognize his years of service to the State of Illinois; and be  
5 it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Rep. Fortner as a symbol of our respect and  
8 esteem.