



HR0024

LRB101 05540 ALS 50556 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate John A. Ostenburg on his 30-year career in public service and on the occasion of his retirement as the Mayor of Park Forest; and

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WHEREAS, John Ostenburg was elected as Mayor of Park Forest in 1999 and was reelected for four more terms; during his tenure as Mayor, he was the Chief Elected Official for 20 years and currently holds the distinction as the longest-serving Mayor in the history of Park Forest; and

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WHEREAS, John Ostenburg's visionary approach resulted in many initiatives and successes for Park Forest, including as an All-American City finalist in 2000 and 2006 and a Chicago Tribune Top 100 workplace in 2010; the award-winning Park Forest Sustainability Plan was implemented in 2012, and the city received a 3-STAR designation in 2014 and the SolSmart "Gold" designation in 2015; under his leadership, Park Forest was also the recipient of the Distinguished Budget Award and Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for more than 20 consecutive years; and

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WHEREAS, John Ostenburg was instrumental in diversifying and unifying the Park Forest Board of Trustees, both in race

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1 and gender, to establish a very cohesive leadership team; and

2 WHEREAS, John Ostenburg's leadership influence expanded
3 far beyond the boundaries of Park Forest, as he was heavily
4 involved at the regional, state, and federal levels; he served
5 in a variety of positions at the appointment of the Cook County
6 Board President and the Illinois Municipal League; he also
7 served as President of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers
8 Association and as Chairman of the Board for the Metropolitan
9 Mayors Caucus; his ascension into these top leadership roles in
10 the SSMMA and the MMC were based on longstanding work on
11 various committees within both entities; and

12 WHEREAS, Outside of public service, John Ostenburg's
13 career included teaching at elementary and secondary school
14 levels before becoming affiliated with several institutions of
15 higher learning; in addition to teaching journalism and
16 communications courses, he has served as the Director of Alumni
17 Affairs and Sports Information Director at Lewis University,
18 the Executive Director of the College Foundation at Prairie
19 State College, and the Director of University Relations at
20 Governors State University; his professional career continued
21 with the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU), where he served as the
22 Editor of the Chicago Union Teacher, the Communications
23 Department Chair, and the Chief of Staff; and

1 WHEREAS, John Ostenburg built strong relationships with
2 leaders in Cook County, Springfield, and Washington, D.C.; he
3 was a champion of regionalism, equality, diversity, and an
4 environmentalist; he helped lead efforts toward important
5 housing, economic development, and legislative matters with
6 county and state leaders; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate John A. Ostenburg on the occasion of his
10 retirement as the Mayor of Park Forest, and we commend his
11 30-year career in public service; and be it further

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