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LRB101 11464 ALS 57490 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Village of Mundelein  
4 Chief of Police Eric Guenther on receiving the Dr. Nathan Davis  
5 Award for Outstanding Government Service, the American Medical  
6 Association's (AMA) top government service award; and

7           WHEREAS, Chief Guenther spearheaded the award-winning "A  
8 Way Out" program, Lake County's response to the opioid abuse  
9 crisis, which allows law enforcement to place people with  
10 opioid use disorder into substance abuse treatment programs as  
11 an alternative to arrest and prosecution through the criminal  
12 justice system; and

13           WHEREAS, "A Way Out" has the participation of several  
14 police departments throughout Lake County and has created  
15 partnerships with every treatment center in the county; the  
16 relationship between law enforcement and drug users has been  
17 changed, making departments themselves a starting point in the  
18 recovery process; and

19           WHEREAS, The program was immediately successful, with the  
20 first patient entering a participating police station just one  
21 day after the program was announced in June 2016; and

1           WHEREAS, "When confronted with an opioid epidemic that has  
2 overwhelmed police departments and first responders across the  
3 country, Chief Guenther found an innovative solution that is  
4 working for his community and giving people with substance use  
5 disorder a chance at recovery," said AMA Board Chair Jack  
6 Resneck Jr. M.D.; and

7           WHEREAS, Chief Guenther was one of eight honorees chosen;  
8 the award, named for the founding father of the American  
9 Medical Association, recognizes elected and career officials  
10 in federal, state, or municipal service whose outstanding  
11 contributions have promoted the art and science of medicine and  
12 the betterment of public health; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
14 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we congratulate the Village of Mundelein Chief of Police Eric  
16 Guenther on receiving the Dr. Nathan Davis Award for  
17 Outstanding Government Service, and we commend his work to  
18 shape a productive, treatment-based response to the opioid  
19 abuse epidemic; and be it further

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