



HR0346

LRB101 11688 MST 58129 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The conclusion of the spring session of the 101st General Assembly will mark a significant change to the face of statehouse journalism with the retirement of Charles N. "Charlie" Wheeler III as the Director of the Public Affairs Reporting Program (PAR) at the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS); and

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WHEREAS, Charlie Wheeler's departure caps an amazing 50 years of journalistic excellence that began with the Chicago Sun-Times and ends with a journey that has guided approximately 700 students through the nationally respected PAR master's degree program at UIS; and

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WHEREAS, As if that legendary longevity was not enough, Charlie Wheeler's career ends with over 110 years of family reporting that began with his grandfather as a correspondent with the Chicago Inter Ocean and the Chicago Tribune and continued on with his father who worked for the Chicago Times and the Chicago Sun-Times; and

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WHEREAS, Charlie Wheeler earned degrees in journalism from St. Mary College and the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University; and

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1 WHEREAS, Prior to his career in journalism, Charlie Wheeler
2 spent three years in Panama with the Peace Corps; and

3 WHEREAS, Charlie Wheeler's PAR students routinely use the
4 words "father" and life changing" to describe the impact he has
5 had on their lives; and

6 WHEREAS, Like those who preceded Charlie Wheeler as PAR
7 director including U.S. Senator Paul Simon and Bill Miller,
8 perhaps the best testimonial to his accomplishments is the
9 legion of award-winning reporters, who stretch from coast to
10 coast and staff every type of news gathering operation from
11 small town weeklies to national cable news programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Charlie Wheeler has received many honors and
13 recognitions, including five national Capitolbeat awards for
14 his Illinois Issues commentaries, the 2013 Journalist of the
15 Year by the Eastern Illinois University Department of
16 Journalism, and induction into the Lincoln League of
17 Journalists by the Illinois Associated Press Editors
18 Association; additionally, he served as president of the
19 Illinois Legislative Correspondents Association for 16 years;
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
22 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Charles N. "Charlie" Wheeler III on the
2 occasion of his retirement, thank him for his selfless
3 dedication to journalism in the State of Illinois and for
4 inspiring hundreds of student journalists that are now
5 excelling in their field due to his teaching, and wish him well
6 in the years to come; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Charlie Wheeler as a symbol of our respect and
9 esteem and respect.