



HR0554

LRB101 14987 MST 64007 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey D. Parks on receiving the 2019 Rural Physician of Excellence Award from the Illinois Rural Health Association; and

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WHEREAS, One of the biggest healthcare challenges across our nation is the shortage of physicians who practice in rural settings, especially with the high percentage of older adults living in rural America and small towns; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Parks graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 1980; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Parks completed his residency in family practice at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria in 1983; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Parks began his professional career in the rural health arena in private practice in Herrin in 1983, which he later expanded to Logan Primary Care in 1994; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Parks has served as a physician with Southern Illinois Medical Services since 2011 and is part of the active medical staff at Herrin Hospital; and

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1 WHEREAS, Dr. Parks takes time to serve as an assistant
2 professor at the Southern Illinois University College of
3 Medicine, where he has shared his vast knowledge of rural
4 medicine with many students who went on to careers in rural
5 practice; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Parks is very dedicated and often provides
7 home visits to some of his homebound patients, something rarely
8 seen in the 21st century; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Parks has been instrumental in developing a
10 team approach to area long-term care facilities so that
11 patients in several local facilities are able to benefit from
12 daily visits by medical staff; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Parks's passion for caring for the underserved
14 goes well beyond Illinois and all the way to Liberia, Africa,
15 where he volunteered through the years in remote medical
16 clinics; and

17 WHEREAS, When not making rounds up and down hospital wings,
18 Dr. Parks can sometimes be found hiking on the beautiful trails
19 of Southern Illinois; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we congratulate Dr. Jeffrey D. Parks on receiving the 2019
3 Rural Physician of Excellence Award and commend him for his
4 compassion and dedication to his patients and for filling such
5 a tremendous void in rural medicine over the past 35 years; and
6 be it further

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