



HR0620

LRB101 15256 MST 64798 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize the many accomplishments of Pontiac Township High School teacher Paul Ritter; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter is a dedicated and talented science teacher at Pontiac Township High School and has used his passion for science to educate and inspire hundreds of students; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter graduated from Mendota High School in 1988 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Zoology; he worked for the Illinois Department of Conservation as a wildlife interpreter before ultimately deciding to pursue a career in education; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter was the 2011 recipient of the National Science Teachers Association Outstanding Environmental Educator of the Year Award; and

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WHEREAS, Paul Ritter has pioneered many innovative and exciting educational programs, including crayon and cell phone recycling and a bio-diesel program; he and his students have created the world's largest pharmaceutical disposal network, the Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal or P2D2 program, to

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1 safeguard the natural health of rivers and streams, disposing
2 of 6.5 million pounds of pharmaceuticals in five countries; and

3 WHEREAS, Paul Ritter's Operation Endangered Species
4 program, developed with his students and the Illinois
5 Department of Natural Resources, has sought to reintroduce
6 alligator snapping turtles to their natural habitat range and
7 has earned him and his students a nomination for the
8 Indianapolis Prize; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1983, there were zero recorded alligator
10 snapping turtles in the wild in Illinois; there are now 500
11 turtles back in the wild due to the efforts of Paul Ritter's
12 students; furthermore, they have monitored endangered
13 shorebird migration and have worked to secure several hundred
14 acres of farmland to create endangered species pollinator
15 plots; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Paul Ritter on his outstanding career as a
19 gifted teacher and his nomination for the Indianapolis Prize;
20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Paul Ritter as a symbol of our esteem and respect.