



HR0902

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Orland Park Police Chief
4 Timothy J. "Tim" McCarthy on the occasion of his retirement on
5 August 1, 2020; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief McCarthy is a son of the Irish-American
7 community of the South Side of Chicago; he was born in the City
8 of the Big Shoulders on June 20, 1949 and attended Catholic
9 schools in his youth; he graduated from Leo Catholic High
10 School in 1967 and attended the University of Illinois at
11 Urbana-Champaign; and

12 WHEREAS, At the University of Illinois, Chief McCarthy
13 tried out for the Fighting Illini men's football team as a
14 walk-on; earning his way aboard through this grueling process,
15 his talent as a strong safety was so great that as a sophomore
16 he earned a belated football scholarship and represented the
17 State of Illinois on the Big Ten gridiron; and

18 WHEREAS, Upon graduating from the University of Illinois in
19 1971, Chief McCarthy turned his eyes towards the highest levels
20 of law enforcement, joining the United States Secret Service;
21 the Secret Service selected him to serve in its inner circle,
22 the Presidential Protective Division, the law enforcement

1 officers who maintain perimeter control around the President of
2 the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, While guarding newly-elected President Ronald
4 Reagan on March 30, 1981 as the President walked out of a
5 Washington, D.C. hotel and headed toward his limousine, Chief
6 McCarthy heard the first of what would be six shots from the
7 gun of a would-be presidential assassin; utilizing his
8 training, he placed himself in the line of fire and took a
9 bullet in the torso; numerous witnesses stated at the time that
10 they had personally seen Chief McCarthy save President Reagan's
11 life; and

12 WHEREAS, After the attempted assassination, his discharge
13 from the hospital, and the resumption of his service, Chief
14 McCarthy moved to executive law enforcement and returned to his
15 home state of Illinois; he advanced in the Secret Service
16 Chicago Division and was named Special Agent in Charge
17 (Chicago) in 1989; and

18 WHEREAS, After leaving the Secret Service in October of
19 1993, Chief McCarthy was named chief of the Orland Park Police
20 Department in May of 1994 and began a new phase of his life,
21 which is now in its eighth decade; and

22 WHEREAS, As the police chief of a rapidly-growing and

1 diverse South Suburban Chicago municipality, Chief McCarthy
2 had a new set of challenges to face; highly respected by both
3 his officers and his colleagues, Chief McCarthy had the unique
4 standing and stature to develop community-based law
5 enforcement tools within his own jurisdiction that could be
6 shared throughout Illinois with his fellow chiefs and police
7 officers; and

8 WHEREAS, Among these pioneering efforts in community
9 policing was Chief McCarthy's strong advocacy, from almost the
10 very beginning of its availability, for adding naloxone to his
11 jurisdiction's standard police vehicle kit; naloxone can be
12 injected into a person suffering from acute respiratory
13 distress following an opioid overdose, and its use has been
14 credited with saving thousands of lives throughout the United
15 States in the years since Chief McCarthy began advocating for
16 its use; and

17 WHEREAS, As a champion of his police force, Chief McCarthy
18 continually fought for more and better resources for the Orland
19 Park Police Department and for Illinois law enforcement in
20 general; during his service as chief of more than a quarter of
21 a century from 1994 until 2020, the Orland Park police force
22 grew by more than 30 sworn officers; and

23 WHEREAS, Chief McCarthy received the NCAA Award of Valor in

1 1982 and the inaugural Police Chief of the Year Award from the
2 Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police in 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, These are only two of the numerous honors, awards,
4 and recognitions that Chief McCarthy has earned over the course
5 of his storied career in national and Illinois law enforcement;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Awards and recognitions are less important to
8 Chief McCarthy than his wife of 47 years, his three children,
9 and his seven grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, After being a hero on the national stage, Chief
11 McCarthy returned home to be a pillar of his family and of his
12 home community, the community of Orland Park; 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 Orland Park Police Chief Timothy J. "Tim"
16 McCarthy on his retirement, and we thank him for his service
17 and wish him the best in all his future endeavors; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Chief McCarthy as a symbol of our respect and
21 esteem.