



HR0469

LRB102 20375 LAW 29233 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Dennis Palmer, D.O., on the occasion of receiving the 2021 Rural Physician Lifetime of Service 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; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1975 and completed a rotating internship at Davenport Osteopathic Hospital in 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer served as Lt. Commander in the National Health Service Corps from 1976 to 1978; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer served as a flight surgeon for the Federal Aviation Association from 1976 to 1978; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer, as a family practice physician, became owner of Mercer Health Center, SC, in 1978, which is now part of Genesis Health Group; he continues to provide care for generations of families there; and

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1           WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer has served as an adjunct assistant  
2 professor of Family Medicine for Chicago College of  
3 Osteopathic Medicine, Kirksville College of Osteopathic  
4 Medicine, and Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine  
5 since 1983; and

6           WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer has served in various leadership roles  
7 throughout his career, including as chief of staff and chief  
8 of obstetrics of Mercer County Hospital; he has served as  
9 medical director of Aledo Health and Rehab, Genesis Senior  
10 Living, and local plasma centers; he also served on the board  
11 of directors for the Illinois Lyme Association; and

12           WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer is very committed to sharing his  
13 knowledge of rural medicine and has served as a preceptor to  
14 students studying to be doctors, advanced practice nurses, and  
15 physician assistants, inspiring them to pursue careers in  
16 rural practice; and

17           WHEREAS, Dr. Palmer's passion to help the rural medically  
18 underserved areas of northwest Illinois has extended outside  
19 the state, providing care to patients throughout South America  
20 on his many mission trips to Bolivia and Honduras through the  
21 years; and

22           WHEREAS, In addition to serving his patients, Dr. Palmer

1 has actively served his community, including as president of  
2 the Mercer County YMCA, as president of the Aledo Civic  
3 Authority, and as a youth camp counselor; and

4 WHEREAS, When not practicing medicine, Dr. Palmer can be  
5 found on the tennis courts, on horseback, or training for a  
6 triathlon; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
8 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we congratulate Dennis Palmer, D.O., on receiving the 2021  
10 Rural Physician Lifetime of Service Award from the Illinois  
11 Rural Health Association; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we commend Dr. Palmer for his compassion,  
13 his dedication to his patients, and for filling such a  
14 tremendous void in rural medicine in northwest Illinois over  
15 the past 45 years; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to Dr. Palmer as an expression of our esteem and  
18 respect.