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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson was born in Chicago to Ben and
3 Bernice Odelson; he attended Bogan High School, Richard J.
4 Daley College, the University of Illinois, and the
5 Chicago-Kent College of Law; and

6 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson's interest in politics began in 1968
7 when he volunteered at the Chicago Democratic National
8 Convention, chauffeuring Gore Vidal and Paul Newman to events;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson was admitted to the Illinois bar 50
11 years ago on October 23, 1972; and

12 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson began his long prestigious law
13 career soon after law school by serving for many years as
14 village attorney for his first municipality, the Village of
15 Harwood Heights; and

16 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson argued his first election case when
17 he served as legal counsel to his dear friend, Thomas Powell,
18 defending his mayoral bid in Oak Lawn, after he was challenged
19 in 1973 at the young age of 26; and

20 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson has argued hundreds of cases for

1 public officials, labor leaders, and candidates for local,
2 state, and federal offices; and

3 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson has participated in numerous
4 landmark cases at the Electoral Board, Circuit Court,
5 Appellate Court, Supreme Court of Illinois, and United States
6 Supreme Court; and

7 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson coined the word "chad" in the
8 infamous election case of Pullen v. Mulligan, which led to his
9 participation in the 2000 Florida recount of President Bush in
10 Florida; and

11 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson served as a hearing officer for the
12 Illinois Secretary of State's Office; and

13 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson was elected to the Moraine Valley
14 Community College Board for 17 years and served as chairman of
15 the board; and

16 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson served on the board at Brother Rice
17 High School, where he spent time as chairman and donated the
18 broadcast studio; he received the 2016 Stephen Ruff
19 Distinguished Service Award for his dedication to the men of
20 Brother Rice; and

1 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson received the Professional
2 Achievement Award from the Chicago-Kent College of Law -
3 Illinois Institute of Technology in 2016; and

4 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson is a member of the executive board
5 and pro bono attorney for the Women's Care Center Foundation
6 in South Bend, Indiana; he serves as chairman of the board of
7 directors for the Women's Care Center in LaGrange; and

8 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson is regarded as an election expert in
9 the State of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson is a loving father and grandfather;
11 he and his wife, Patti, have seven children, John, Courtney,
12 Dustin, Lauren, Christina, Gina, and Mike; and

13 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson's favorite moments are those spent
14 with his children and their spouses, Jacquie, Joe, Kaitlyn,
15 and Ted, and grandchildren at Magician Lake; and

16 WHEREAS, Burt Odelson is the proud "Pops" to Ben, Jacob,
17 Vivian, Henry, Riley, Margo, Oliver, and Ella; therefore, be
18 it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we commend Burt Odelson on his service as a leader, combining
2 his generosity and kindness in life with a warrior spirit in
3 the courtroom; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Burt Odelson as a symbol of our respect and
6 esteem.