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LRB102 29695 MST 41738 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Lori Blade on the occasion of her retirement from Edwardsville High School (EHS), where she has served as the girls basketball and softball head coach for many years; and

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WHEREAS, Coach Blade was first hired as the girls basketball coach at EHS in March 2002; she joined the softball program as an assistant coach the following spring before stepping up to lead the team in June 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Prior to coaching at EHS, Coach Blade served as the softball coach for Carrollton High School for eight seasons; and

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WHEREAS, After a combined 1,529 basketball and softball wins over her career, Coach Blade announced her retirement from coaching in June 2022; and

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WHEREAS, In 18 seasons with EHS's softball program, Coach Blade won 13 Southwestern Conference championships, 15 regional championships, and six sectionals and placed in the state tournament three times; as a coach for Carrollton High School, she led her teams to an additional eight regional

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1 championships, six sectional championships, and six
2 appearances in the state tournament; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach Blade had similar success with the EHS
4 girls basketball program, winning 13 Southwestern Conference
5 championships, 17 regional championships, and 13 sectional
6 championships and making six appearances in the state
7 tournament; at Carrollton High School, she won an additional
8 seven regional championships and five sectional championships;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Coach Blade is the only head coach in Illinois
11 High School Association History to retire with over 700 wins
12 in two different sports; she has a record of 786 wins and 131
13 losses in softball and 743 wins and 92 losses in basketball
14 over 26 seasons of each; she is ranked fourth in all-time wins
15 for softball and eighth in all-time wins for girls basketball
16 in Illinois history; and

17 WHEREAS, Coach Blade is a member of multiple halls of
18 fame, including the National High School Athletic Coaches
19 Association Hall of Fame, the Illinois Softball Coaches
20 Association Hall of Fame, the Illinois Basketball Coaches
21 Association Hall of Fame, and the Southern Illinois University
22 Edwardsville Hall of Fame; and

1 WHEREAS, Coach Blade's time and dedication to the
2 mentorship of hundreds of students, encouraging them to do
3 their best in both their sport and their community, has had a
4 lasting impact on those students and their futures; therefore,
5 be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Lori Blade on her retirement from Edwardsville
9 High School, and we recognize her commitment to the community
10 and the mentoring of its students; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Coach Blade as an expression of our esteem and
13 respect.