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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate our colleague, State Representative Keith Sommer, on the occasion of his retirement from the General Assembly after 24 years of service; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer joined the House of Representatives in January 1999, but his service to the people of his district stretches back almost half a century; and

WHEREAS, Before he came to Springfield, Rep. Sommer served on the Tazewell County Board and the Morton Village Board; he also served as the recorder of Tazewell County and chaired his local regional planning commission; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer was a tireless advocate for adoptive families in Illinois, passing a historic adoption reform bill in 2015 that eased the process of international adoptions for Illinois families; and

WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer opened educational opportunities for dyslexic children in Illinois through legislation that created a guide for school personnel to identify signs of dyslexia and to help them improve their dyslexic students' academic performance; and

1           WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer aligned his legislative record with  
2 his style as an elected official; when someone came to him for  
3 help, he listened and then developed a way to assist them, not  
4 stopping until the solution became a reality; despite the  
5 bills he championed not always representing high profile  
6 issues with headline-grabbing attention, he worked diligently  
7 to pass them as he understood their importance to the families  
8 they directly impacted; and

9           WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer has also left an indelible mark on  
10 the State of Illinois through successful designation of the  
11 pumpkin pie as our state pie, which honors his hometown of  
12 Morton, the pumpkin capital of the world; and

13           WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer spent almost a quarter of a century  
14 in service to the people of Illinois as an advocate for lower  
15 taxes, local control, Second Amendment rights, and small  
16 businesses; and

17           WHEREAS, Rep. Sommer will leave the General Assembly for a  
18 much-deserved retirement; therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we thank Representative Keith Sommer for his many years of

1 service to the people of his district and the State of  
2 Illinois; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we wish him, his wife, Deb, and their two  
4 daughters all the best in the years to come; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to Rep. Sommer as an expression of our esteem and  
7 respect.