



HR0624

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Lewis Collens on the
4 occasion of being named a 2024 Lincoln Laureate of the Order of
5 Lincoln; and

6 WHEREAS, Established in 1964, the Order of Lincoln is the
7 State's highest civilian honor for professional achievement
8 and public service, honoring Illinois residents whose work
9 uplifts every community in the State; and

10 WHEREAS, Lewis Collens, a lifelong resident of Illinois,
11 is a highly respected and recognized leader in higher
12 education, credited with the strategic revitalization and
13 transformation of two major Chicago institutions, the Illinois
14 Institute of Technology (IIT) and its Chicago-Kent College of
15 Law; and

16 WHEREAS, Lewis Collens received his Bachelor of Science in
17 Accounting and his Master of Arts in Philosophy from the
18 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; he earned his Juris
19 Doctor from the University of Chicago Law School, where he
20 served on the University of Chicago Law Review and was elected
21 to the Order of the Coif; and

1 WHEREAS, Lewis Collens practiced law in Chicago and
2 Washington, D.C. before joining IIT's Chicago-Kent College of
3 Law as a law professor in 1970, teaching corporate and
4 securities law; while serving as a Law and Humanities Fellow
5 at Harvard Law School, he was named dean of the Chicago-Kent
6 College of Law in 1974; under his leadership, the law school
7 became widely known for its innovative programs, distinguished
8 faculty, and outstanding student body; and

9 WHEREAS, Lewis Collens then served as president of IIT
10 from 1990 to 2007, during which the institution saw dramatic
11 improvements in student quality and enrollment, the creation
12 of a number of significant research centers and institutes,
13 and an endowment that grew from \$50 million to \$300 million;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Lewis Collens also co-founded the bar review
16 company now known as BARBRI to help adequately prepare the
17 next generation of lawyers to pass the bar, especially those
18 who lack financial resources, and his company has become a
19 nationwide industry leader; and

20 WHEREAS, During his career, Lewis Collens has served on
21 more than 30 corporate, civic, and nonprofit boards and
22 committees, often in leadership positions, including the Alion
23 Science & Technology Corporation, AMSTED Industries, the

1 Chicago Council on Science & Technology, the Civic Federation
2 of Illinois, the Colson Group, the Cook County Health and
3 Hospitals System, Dean Foods Company, the Economic Club of
4 Chicago, the Mayor's Council of Technology Advisors, the
5 National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities,
6 The Partnership for New Communities, and Rush University; and

7 WHEREAS, Lewis Collens and his fellow 2024 Lincoln
8 Laureates join more than 350 distinguished Illinois residents
9 of the Order of Lincoln since its inception, and they will be
10 honored at the 60th annual Convocation and Investiture at the
11 Chicago History Museum on April 13, 2024; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we congratulate Lewis Collens on being named a 2024 Lincoln
15 Laureate of the Order of Lincoln, and we recognize his service
16 and dedication to the residents of Illinois; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Lewis Collens as an expression of our esteem and
19 respect.