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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Ryan Risinger on the occasion of his retirement from the Buffalo Grove Park District on May 26, 2023; and

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WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger was first employed by the Buffalo Grove Park District as an intern in May of 1992 after earning his bachelor's degree in parks and recreation from Illinois State University; he was hired full-time as recreation supervisor in November of that same year; he was then promoted to division manager in 1996, superintendent of recreation in 2001, director of recreation and facilities in 2010, and deputy director in 2013; he was named executive director on November 29, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger continued his education while working full-time for the Buffalo Grove Park District; he attended Indiana University's Executive Development Program, North Carolina State's School of Sports Management at Oglebay, and Disney Institute's Keys to Success and Customer Loyalty Programs; he is a certified Park and Recreation Executive and earned his master's degree in public administration from Villanova in 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger became active in the Illinois Parks

1 and Recreation Association (IPRA) through the recreation  
2 section and eventually the administration and finance section;  
3 he served on the Mentoring Committee and was recognized by the  
4 IPRA for his efforts and contributions as Mentoring Committee  
5 Chairman in 2003 and 2004; he has spoken on various  
6 educational topics, including The Ups & Downs of Skate Parks  
7 and It Takes a Village: Controlling the Crisis, which focused  
8 on the importance of community crisis training with local law  
9 enforcement; he also co-authored a partnership article titled  
10 A Wireless Solution that was featured in the Illinois Park and  
11 Recreation magazine; and

12 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger's advocacy efforts for parks and  
13 recreation on a national level led the Buffalo Grove Park  
14 District to be named National Recreation and Park  
15 Association's Park Champion of the Year in 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger, as executive director, was  
17 actively involved in the Illinois Association of Park  
18 Districts (IAPD) and IPRA's Distinguished Accreditation  
19 program committee; he served as co-chair in 2017 and chair in  
20 2018; he remained on the committee in 2019 and 2020 and was  
21 co-chair in 2022; the Buffalo Grove Park District was  
22 accredited five times over his 30-year career; and

23 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger was an advocate for professional

1 development and ensured that his district's staff had the  
2 opportunity to attend state conferences as well as  
3 national/regional professional development programs; he has  
4 been a respected and dedicated leader who promoted a positive  
5 work culture where people not only wanted to work but wanted to  
6 stay throughout their career; and

7 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger fostered positive relationships  
8 with governmental agencies, including the Village of Buffalo  
9 Grove, school districts, the Indian Trails Public Library  
10 District, sports affiliate groups, and sponsors; he was an  
11 active member of the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove, where he  
12 served as president in 2017-18; he served on the Northwest  
13 Special Recreation Association Board of Directors from 2015 to  
14 2022, including as chairman in 2020; he was a member of the  
15 Special Leisure Services Foundation Board of Trustees in 2021  
16 and 2022 and was a long-standing liaison to the Buffalo Grove  
17 Chamber of Commerce; and

18 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger oversaw the renovation of the  
19 Buffalo Grove Park District's Community Arts Center; partially  
20 funded with a PARC grant, the 41,000 SF LEED-certified  
21 facility was developed with the arts in mind; it has a  
22 state-of-the-art, 360 tiered-seat theater with an ADA  
23 accessible sound booth, concessions, box office, multipurpose  
24 areas, and an art gallery; the center offers over a 100

1 different classes with more than 852 performers yearly, as  
2 well performing arts camps that serve more than 400 campers;  
3 it operates as a rental hub year-round for local groups  
4 including churches, synagogues, arangetrams, quinceaneras,  
5 community outreach groups, non-profits, and other local  
6 government agencies; the district was honored to receive the  
7 distinction of Outstanding Facility Award: Division II for  
8 this facility by the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association  
9 in January of 2020; and

10 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger's leadership enabled the district  
11 to complete many park developments, including the renovation  
12 of the district's park gem, Willow Stream Park, which received  
13 upgraded pathways, additional trails, a new playground, pool  
14 upgrades and slide, permeable paving, and a pavilion; that  
15 project was followed by a large renovation of Reiner Park  
16 (formerly Green Lake Park) with the addition of a cricket  
17 pitch, outdoor exercise equipment, a fishing pier, and a  
18 butterfly garden; he also oversaw the development of the  
19 Educational Gardens and Classroom at Mike Rylko Community  
20 Park, which encourages the community to be curious about the  
21 natural world with a focus on food sustainability and native  
22 plants; and

23 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger also oversaw the Alcott Center  
24 pre-school wing renovation, the construction of the Golf Dome,

1 and the proposed Prairie Grove and Parkchester Park  
2 renovations, as well as the Spray 'N Play expansion and  
3 Amphitheater construction at Mike Rylko Community Park; and

4 WHEREAS, Ryan Risinger's legacy of service will leave a  
5 lasting impact on the State of Illinois parks and recreation  
6 field and on the community of Buffalo Grove; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Ryan  
9 Risinger on his retirement from the Buffalo Grove Park  
10 District, and we wish him well in all his future endeavors; and  
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to Ryan Risinger as a symbol of our respect and  
14 esteem.