

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives congratulate Rita Aliese Fry on her  
4 retirement as Chief Executive of the Cook County Public  
5 Defender's Office; and

6 WHEREAS, Ms. Fry was reappointed to a second six-year  
7 term as Public Defender in June of 1998, having been  
8 previously appointed and confirmed by the Cook County Board  
9 of Commissioners in March of 1992; her duties and  
10 responsibilities included designating liaisons to all county  
11 and court agencies involved in the administration and funding  
12 of the Office; ex-officio member of all Office committees;  
13 director of all internal Office operations; and monitoring  
14 all activities of the Office through the First Assistant  
15 Public Defender and Operations Directors, including all  
16 requests for expenditures, budgets, and allocation of  
17 resources; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1968, Ms. Fry received an Associate of Arts  
19 degree from Prairie State College; in 1973 she received a  
20 Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University, and in 1979  
21 she received a J.D. degree from Northwestern University  
22 College of Law; and

23 WHEREAS, From 1980 through 1986, she served as an  
24 Assistant Public Defender assigned to the Felony Trial  
25 Division and Homicide Task Force, where she litigated bench,  
26 jury and capital cases, and was a misdemeanor trial attorney  
27 in the First Municipal Division; and

28 WHEREAS, From 1986 to 1988, she was a Senior Attorney  
29 Supervisor of the Municipal Prosecutions Divisions for the  
30 City of Chicago Law Department, responsible for the  
31 supervision of 15 lawyers assigned to prosecute civil and  
32 criminal matters in the Circuit Court of Cook County and she

1 provided legal counsel to various city departments such as  
2 police, health, consumer services, zoning, liquor licensing  
3 commission, and city council committees; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Fry was appointed First Assistant Public  
5 Defender in August 1988 and served until 1992; she was  
6 responsible for the direct management and day-to-day  
7 operations of the Office of the Cook County Public Defender,  
8 supervision of 508 attorneys and 248 support staff, and the  
9 management of the FY 1992 \$38 million budget; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Fry has been an instructor, lecturer, guest  
11 speaker, and panelist for many organizations and at many  
12 institutions of higher education; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Fry is the author of a chapter appearing in  
14 the book, "Ethical Problems Facing the Criminal Defense  
15 Lawyer" entitled "Calling Defense Witnesses: Whose Case Is  
16 This Anyway?"; and

17 WHEREAS, Her memberships include the National Bar  
18 Association, Cook County Bar Association, the National Legal  
19 Aid and Defenders Association, the Illinois State Bar  
20 Association, the American Bar Association, the American  
21 Management Association, Black Women Lawyers Association, the  
22 National Lawyers Guild, Chicago Council of Lawyers, the  
23 Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers, Inns of Court, National  
24 Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers, Fellows of the  
25 American Bar Foundations, and many others; and

26 WHEREAS, In June 1994, Ms. Fry was selected by the  
27 President of the Supreme Court of Ethiopia to assist in  
28 establishing a long-term administrative structure for  
29 Ethiopia's first public defender system; and

30 WHEREAS, Ms. Fry is the 1995 recipient of the Anne  
31 O'Brien Stevens Award and the 1992 recipient of the IDA Platt

1 Award, the Kizzy Award, and the Sixth Amendment Award;  
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
5 we congratulate Rita Aliese Fry on her retirement as Chief  
6 Executive of the Cook County Public Defender's Office and  
7 wish her good health and happiness in all of her future  
8 endeavors; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to Rita Aliese Fry with our respect and esteem.