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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to congratulate Ronald H. Dodd on the occasion of his retirement after over 40 years in the parks and recreation field; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd has served as the Executive Director for the Joliet Park District since 1988, where his responsibilities include reporting to the Board of Commissioners; management of revenue-based facilities, regional airport, conservatory, neighborhood and regional parks; and a comprehensive recreation activity delivery system; he assisted with the formation of the Joliet Alliance for Youth which brought 35 youth service organizations together to coordinate year-round youth program schedules and a summer lunch program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd has served as the Deputy General Superintendent at the Chicago Park District, where he was responsible for establishing a decentralized service delivery format and the initiation of citizen advisory councils at 150 recreation centers; he assisted in the success of one of the first plastic recycling programs implemented by a municipal agency; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure in the parks and recreation field, Mr. Dodd's organizations have been recognized; in 1993, the Joliet Park District was the National Gold Medal Award winner, and while serving as the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Dallas, the organization was the winner of the 1985 Gold Medal Award; he also received two Innovative Project awards from the City of Dallas; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Mr. Dodd was serving as the Superintendent of Recreation for the Arlington Heights Park District, when he and colleagues from six other park districts

1 formed the Northwest Special Recreation Association, which had  
2 the responsibility of providing leisure services to the  
3 disabled population; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd received a Bachelor of Arts degree from  
5 Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and a Master of Science degree  
6 in Park and Recreation Management from the University of  
7 Illinois at Champaign; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd has been active in several professional  
9 organizations, and has served as president, chairman, or as a  
10 member of the Board of Directors for many of them, including  
11 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the  
12 American Park and Recreation Society, the Great Lakes Regional  
13 Council, the NRPA Council of State Presidents, the American  
14 Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, the  
15 At-Risk-Youth Colloquium and Forum on Contemporary Issues, the  
16 Illinois Park and Recreation Association, the James Foundation  
17 National Symposium series, and the Illinois-Michigan Canal  
18 National Heritage Corridor Commission; he has served on several  
19 Council on Accreditation University visitation teams; he  
20 served as chairman of the Board of Regents for the nationally  
21 recognized Revenue Sources Management School, Sports  
22 Management School, and the National Institute of Golf  
23 Management held at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd has written many articles and researched  
25 monographs for various recreation publications and has been  
26 invited to lecture at universities and professional training  
27 institutes; his studies and leadership have taken him to  
28 England, Japan, China, and Korea; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd is the recipient of the prestigious  
30 Charles K. Brighbill Award and Joseph J. Bannon Practitioner  
31 Award from the University of Illinois; the National Park  
32 Foundation awarded him the Cornelius A. Pugsley Medal for

1 outstanding contributions to local parks, recreation, and  
2 conservation; the Illinois Park and Recreation Association  
3 elected him to a lifetime membership and selected him for the  
4 Robert Artz Award for his commitment to establishing citizen  
5 advisory councils; he received the NRPA's highest honor, the  
6 Distinguished Professional Award, Luther College awarded him  
7 the Distinguished Alumni Award, and the University of Northern  
8 Iowa selected him for the E.J. McElroy Scholar Award; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Dodd has been an adjunct faculty member at the  
10 University of St. Francis in Joliet for the past 12 years;  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 congratulate Ronald H. Dodd on the occasion of his retirement  
15 after over 40 years in the parks and recreation field; and be  
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to Ronald H. Dodd as an expression of our respect and  
19 esteem for his many contributions to the parks and recreation  
20 field and with best wishes for a relaxing retirement.