



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In the past couple of weeks, the Iraqi people were  
3 able to participate in a free election for the first time in 50  
4 years and showed the world that they supported democracy with a  
5 greater-than 60% voter turnout in that country ruled by a  
6 brutal dictator only two years ago; and

7 WHEREAS, It was a stated objective of Operation Iraqi  
8 Freedom to liberate the people of Iraq from a violent,  
9 oppressive regime that supported terrorism in other countries  
10 and that took pleasure in the events of September 11, 2001; and

11 WHEREAS, On Sunday, January 30, 2005, an historic election  
12 took place in Iraq - and around the world - to elect a  
13 275-member Transitional National Assembly which will draft  
14 Iraq's new constitution to be presented to the Iraqi people for  
15 their approval in a national referendum in October of 2005; and

16 WHEREAS, A voter-registration list of 14.3 million names  
17 was compiled in six weeks and more than 500 voter registration  
18 centers were established to help Iraqis verify their  
19 registration, and on election day, Iraqis voted at  
20 approximately 5,200 voting centers across Iraq; and

21 WHEREAS, International support for the Iraqi election has  
22 been essential using military forces from 28 nations working  
23 alongside Iraqi forces to help establish stability and security  
24 throughout Iraq; and

25 WHEREAS, We recognize the Illinois men and women who paid  
26 the ultimate price to protect our country; we also recognize  
27 those who have come home with injuries sustained in the War on  
28 Terrorism on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan; and

29 WHEREAS, We owe all of our Illinois sons and daughters a

1 great debt of gratitude for putting themselves in harm's way to  
2 protect us here at home and for giving the people of Iraq and  
3 Afghanistan a real opportunity for Freedom, Liberty,  
4 Democracy, and Self-determination; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we congratulate the Iraqi people on conducting a successful  
8 election and extend our best wishes in their efforts to  
9 establish a Democratic government; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, During this time after the Iraqi national  
11 election, the members of the House of Representatives want to  
12 once again thank the Illinois men and women who make up our  
13 National Guard and Reserve units and who are members of the  
14 regular military for their service in Iraq; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution shall be  
16 delivered to President George W. Bush and to the members of the  
17 Illinois Congressional Delegation.