



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch moved to Park Forest from Chicago in
3 1967; and

4 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch joined the Park Forest Fire
5 Department as a volunteer in the same year; and

6 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch was hired as a career firefighter on
7 July 1, 1970; and

8 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch was promoted to the position of
9 Lieutenant in 1983; and

10 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch was appointed acting chief in 1989
11 and subsequently assigned the position of Administrative
12 Lieutenant; and

13 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch was appointed Fire Chief in 1991 and
14 Fire Administrator in 1997; and

15 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch is a member of the NFPA, the
16 International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Illinois
17 Association of Fire Chief, and MABAS 27 Fire Chiefs
18 Association; and

19 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch was instrumental in the design
20 concept and furnishing of the new state-of-the-art fire
21 station; and

22 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch strived to provide his personnel with
23 the best equipment, most up-to-date training, and a
24 professional work environment in which to thrive; and

25 WHEREAS, Throughout his 38 years in fire service, Ronald
26 Welch demonstrated his dedication to the highest ideals of

1 service and protection of the citizens of the Village of Park
2 Forest; and

3 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch has been a proud member of the "Men
4 of Note" barbershop chorus for 18 years, singing at the White
5 House for the "National Peace Officers Memorial" service and
6 singing the national anthem prior to Chicago White Sox and
7 Chicago Bears sporting events; and

8 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch recently retired to spend more time
9 with his family and to pursue his many outside interests,
10 including traveling, singing, aspiring to be a Dapper Dan at
11 Disney World, and riding his Gold Wing motorcycle; and

12 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch shall forever be known as the serious
13 person that he is without a funny bone in his body; and

14 WHEREAS, Ronald Welch has evolved from his motorcycle with
15 training wheels to his present two wheeler; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we thank Ronald Welch for his years of dedication to the
19 protection of the citizens of Park Forest, and we congratulate
20 him on the occasion of his retirement; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
22 presented to Mr. Welch as an expression of our deepest
23 gratitude for his service and with best wishes for a relaxing
24 retirement.