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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois are pleased to congratulate Chief James D. Spiegel on the occasion of his retirement after more than 28 years of placing himself in harms way for the safety of others; and

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WHEREAS, He was born in 1956 in Long Island, New York; he graduated from Oceanside High School in 1974 and then from Trinity College in Deerfield in 1978 with a BA in Sociology; while attending Trinity College, he took part in St. Therese Hospital's Emergency Medical Technician program and McHenry Hospital's Paramedic program in 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Upon graduation in May of 1978, he joined the Countryside Fire Protection District as a firefighter/paramedic; he became a full-time firefighter/paramedic in July of 1979 and began attending the University of Southern Illinois at Carbondale, completing his BS in Fire Service Technology in 1982; and

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WHEREAS, He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1984, Captain in 1986, Assistant Chief in 1988, Deputy Chief in 1992, and Chief of the District in 2001; he became the second chief officer in Illinois to be recognized as a Chief Fire Officer Designee through the Center of Public Safety Excellence in 2002 and attended the National Fire Academy's four year Chief Executive Fire Officer program; and

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WHEREAS, He led the Countryside Fire District through the challenging fire accreditation program helping it become the first accredited fire protection district in the USA in 1998; he helped Countryside become the first ambulance provider in Illinois to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Service in 1999; he also helped Countryside become

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1 one of only two agencies in the USA to hold both CFAI and CAAS  
2 accreditations; in 2003, many of the programs that he led them  
3 through were identified as best practices by the international  
4 peer review team during re-accreditation; also during his time  
5 as Chief, he helped expand and remodel fire stations, made the  
6 fire trucks more efficient, enhanced the ambulance fleet,  
7 improved the district's 911 service, and replaced the  
8 district's aging aerial ladder; and

9 WHEREAS, During his time as Chief, he often worked in  
10 conjunction with neighboring communities; working with other  
11 fire chiefs, he helped develop Illinois' first fire based  
12 wildland fire suppression team; in 2006, he was elected  
13 President of the Lake County Fire Chiefs Association and also  
14 Chairman of the Lake McHenry County Specialized Response Team;  
15 he was the Mundelein Vernon Hills Rotary Club President in  
16 2005/06, board member of the Central Lake County YMCA, and an  
17 adjunct instructor with the College of Lake County instructing  
18 fire service administrative courses; and

19 WHEREAS, He and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of  
20 Julia Rose, age 9, and Eileen Patricia, age 4; splitting time  
21 between family activities and emergency responses has always  
22 been a challenge and car seats were always a fixture in the  
23 Chief's vehicle; therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
25 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
26 we congratulate Chief James D. Spiegel on the occasion of his  
27 retirement after over 28 years of protecting the public; and be  
28 it further

29 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
30 presented to him as an expression of our deep respect and  
31 esteem and with best wishes for a relaxing retirement.