



HR0279

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate John Perry,  
4 Village Administrator for the Village of Woodridge, on his  
5 retirement; and

6           WHEREAS, John Perry graduated from the University of  
7 Chicago in 1970 with a B.A.; he received his M.P.A. from  
8 Syracuse University in 1972; when he began his professional  
9 management career in 1972, John Perry saw his role as one of a  
10 "community builder" willingly contributing as a member of the  
11 management team to the progress of his first employer, Park  
12 Forest; he was promoted four times during his seventeen years  
13 in Park Forest, advancing from Assistant to the Village Manager  
14 to Village Manager; and

15           WHEREAS, He helped form, and served as a Charter Member of,  
16 the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association for  
17 six years; he also served as chairman of the Intergovernmental  
18 Risk management Agency; during that time Park Forest was named  
19 an All-American City; John Perry pioneered municipal  
20 involvement in supporting diverse communities long before it  
21 became fashionable; he served as the first Chair of the Housing  
22 Coalition of the South Suburbs; and in 1983, his efforts to  
23 defend the municipal right to achieve a diverse community led

1 to a landmark Supreme Court case that established support for  
2 these community initiatives, especially marketing, to achieve  
3 successful community diversity; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1989, John moved on to become Village  
5 Administrator of Woodridge; one of Mr. Perry's main goals with  
6 the Village of Woodridge was to reduce the tax burden on  
7 Village taxpayers; he implemented a strategy of prioritizing  
8 expenses and expanding the tax base, resulting in twenty-three  
9 years of declining municipal property tax rates; Mr. Perry also  
10 focused on promoting high quality balanced development; and

11 WHEREAS, John Perry has guided three significant retail  
12 developments and seven new business parks which together  
13 account for more than twenty-five percent of municipal property  
14 and sales tax revenues; he used his knowledge and experience in  
15 diversity to work with the intergovernmental and citizen  
16 Quality Community Task Force appointed by Woodridge's Mayor in  
17 the early 1990s; this community improvement process led to a  
18 broad-based action plan, the most noteworthy aspect of which is  
19 the multi-family licensing ordinance; in the mid-1990s he  
20 received the intergovernmental cooperation award from the  
21 Dupage Mayors and Managers Conference for his work on this  
22 initiative; and

23 WHEREAS, John Perry once again won the intergovernmental

1 award in 2007 following work that he did to support communities  
2 working on issues related to interoperable radios and regional  
3 water supply; in 1997 Mr. Perry received the Special Service  
4 Award from the Illinois City/County Management Association for  
5 his efforts to involve managers throughout the State in the  
6 Annual Illinois Municipal League Conference; encouraging  
7 participation of managers helped cement relationships between  
8 the elected and appointed officials; and

9 WHEREAS, The DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference  
10 annually recognizes the innovations of its member communities  
11 and Woodridge gained the initial award for its multi-family  
12 license program; it has since repeated the annual award for  
13 programs as diverse as cultural enrichment for at-risk  
14 neighborhood youth, sponsored by the Police Department, and a  
15 Public Works hydro excavator; Woodridge is the only three-time  
16 winner of this Municipal Innovation Award; and

17 WHEREAS, The Village of Woodridge has excelled under John  
18 Perry's stewardship, and in 2007 it was designated one of the  
19 100 Best Communities by Money Magazine; Woodridge has also been  
20 named one of the World's Greatest Communities by the producers  
21 of the "World's Greatest" TV Show; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
23 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 congratulate John Perry on his retirement and wish him the best  
2 in his future endeavors; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to John Perry as a symbol of our respect and esteem.