



HR0342

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Chief Brad Smith on  
4 the occasion of his retirement after many years of service with  
5 the Oswego Fire Department; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1950, Brad Smith moved with his parents to  
7 Oswego from the northern suburbs of Chicago; after graduating  
8 from Oswego High School in 1955, he went to college briefly  
9 before joining the United States Marine Corps; after returning  
10 home from the service in 1958, he took a job with the grain  
11 elevator that operated at Van Buren and South Adams streets in  
12 downtown Oswego; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1965, Chief Brad Smith helped to put out a  
14 fiery blaze that destroyed the old Zentmyer Ford dealership at  
15 Main and Jackson Streets in Oswego's downtown area; he began  
16 his career with the Oswego Fire Department the following year;  
17 he steadily worked his way up through the ranks of the fire  
18 protection district, achieving the ranks of lieutenant and  
19 assistant chief before becoming fire chief; and

20           WHEREAS, Since becoming chief of the Oswego Fire Department  
21 in 1994, Brad Smith has overseen the transformation of the  
22 department from a mostly-volunteer staff working out of a

1 single station on Main Street in downtown Oswego to a  
2 professional department that is staffed by 57 full-time,  
3 professionally-trained paramedic firefighters who work out of  
4 four stations, including two stations in Oswego and one each in  
5 Montgomery and Plainfield; and

6 WHEREAS, Brad Smith serves as a model of hard work,  
7 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of  
8 Illinois; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we congratulate Brad Smith on the occasion of his retirement  
12 and wish him many happy and healthy retirement years; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to Brad Smith as a symbol of our esteem and respect.