



HR1342

LRB097 23629 MST 72693 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate and thank State
4 Representative Joseph M. Lyons for his many years of service on
5 behalf of the people of the State of Illinois and City of
6 Chicago; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons began his service to the
8 people of his district in 1996; he served as a determined and
9 vigorous legislator for the 19th District as a member of the
10 Aging, Financial Institutions, Executive, Telecommunications,
11 Veterans' Affairs, and Tollway Oversight committees; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons has been a leading advocate
13 for a number of important issues, including senior health,
14 education, credit unions, neighborhood safety, and providing
15 vital services to those who need them most; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the years, Representative Lyons has
17 championed the creation of pharmaceutical assistance programs,
18 including the Illinois Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical
19 Assistance Program and the Senior Citizen Prescription Drug
20 Discount Program, to help make prescription medications more
21 affordable to Illinois seniors and disabled persons; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons has continuously fought for
2 legislation to improve education; he has worked to increase
3 school funding throughout the State by supporting the "Fund
4 Education First Act"; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons has coached Chicago Park
6 District youth basketball and baseball programs at Sauganash,
7 Peterson, Portage, and Dunham Parks; an activist in his home
8 parish of Our Lady of Victory, Representative Lyons is past
9 president of the Holy Name Society, a member of the Parish
10 Stewardship Committee, and an active school parent; he is a
11 member of the Knights of Columbus, Jefferson Park Lions, a
12 Misericordia volunteer, and serves on the Executive Board and
13 Benefit Committee of St. Peter's Church in the Loop; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons has received numerous
15 legislator of the year awards from organizations including the
16 American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the Illinois
17 Long Term Care Association, and the Combined Charities
18 Association of Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons was among the top precinct
20 captains in the 45th Ward for 30 years, working hand-in-hand
21 with former 45th ward alderman, ward committeeman, and close
22 personal friend, Pat Levar; and

1 WHEREAS, Each year Representative Lyons proudly holds a
2 popular senior driving seminar in his district to help educate
3 seniors on changes in the rules of the road before they
4 prepared for their driving exams; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons is a revered and respected
6 connoisseur of corned beef among his colleagues; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons has provided strong
8 leadership, sage wisdom, and a steadfast commitment to his
9 duties as chairman of the White Sox caucus; he has dutifully
10 led this caucus with a calm resolve through losing streaks,
11 playoff runs, and a 2005 World Series title; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons has gracefully helped lead
13 the day-to-day operations of the House while in the Speaker's
14 chair; tough but fair, Representative Lyons has helped ensure
15 this proud institution remained focused on the work of the
16 people; and

17 WHEREAS, Strongly committed to his family and Catholic
18 faith, Representative Lyons is a third-generation resident of
19 the northwest side, residing in Jefferson Park with his wife,
20 Kieran, and their two children, Ellie and Joey; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Lyons will be missed by his

1 colleagues, who hold him in the highest regard for his honesty,
2 fairness, commitment, selflessness, and humor; therefore, be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we congratulate and thank Illinois State Representative Joseph
7 M. Lyons for his friendship and many years of service to the
8 state; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Representative Joseph M. Lyons as a token of our
11 respect and esteem and with our best wishes for his future
12 success.