



HR1387

LRB097 23868 MST 73151 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate our friend and
4 colleague, Illinois State Representative Kent Gaffney, on the
5 occasion of his retirement and thank him for his service to the
6 people of the State of Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney has been married to his
8 wife, Elizabeth for 15 years after first meeting her while they
9 both worked at the Capitol on legislative issues, and they are
10 now the proud parents of 2 wonderful boys, Adam and Alexander;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney graduated from
13 Williamsville High School prior to attending and graduating
14 from Purdue University with a bachelor of arts degree in
15 political science; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney began his career in public
17 service in 1988, working for the Illinois Senate during college
18 summers and working in the private sector before coming back to
19 public service in 1997 by taking a position on the House
20 Republican Staff; there he worked on major issues and pieces of
21 legislation including the deregulation of the utility industry
22 and the funding and construction of the new Chicago Bears

1 stadium; and

2 WHEREAS, After years of hard work and dedicated service, he
3 became the Director of Appropriations for the House Republican
4 Caucus in January 2001, and as Director of Appropriations,
5 Representative Gaffney was the "go-to" person for all issues
6 regarding Illinois appropriations; as a leadership staff
7 member, he aided in developing policy positions for the caucus
8 and spent over a decade negotiating the State's budget with 3
9 Governors and the legislative leaders of the other caucuses,
10 always advocating for fiscally responsible and balanced
11 budgets; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney was appointed to serve as
13 State Representative for the 52nd District on July, 4, 2011,
14 after the untimely death of his long-time friend and colleague
15 Representative Mark Beaubien; and

16 WHEREAS, As State Representative, Kent Gaffney sponsored
17 numerous pieces of legislation, including PA 97-0565, which
18 helps to relieve local merchants of government regulations
19 regarding caustic substances, and PA 97-0982, which helps
20 relieve the cost on local government when a State's Attorney is
21 absent; and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney served as an advocate for

1 many causes, such as the abolishment of legislative
2 scholarships, pension reform, and the victims' bill of rights;
3 and he continued budget policy work and was appointed by the
4 Governor to be the only House Republican member to serve on the
5 Budgeting for Results Commission; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney was very active in the
7 local community, he served as host to several town hall forums,
8 including those in Island Lake, Lake in the Hills, and Crystal
9 Lake, and recognized and congratulated the Prairie Ridge
10 football team for winning the CLASS 6A football championship,
11 the Cary-Grove volleyball team for taking 2nd place at the 4A
12 State Championship, and mourning the death of local leader
13 Lester Macko, former fire chief of the Cary Fire District; and

14 WHEREAS, In recognition of his clear commitment to public
15 service and his belief in working towards bi-partisan
16 solutions, Representative Gaffney was nominated and selected
17 to be one of 40 members of the 2012 Inaugural Class of the
18 Edgar Fellows Program; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Gaffney serves as a model of hard
20 work, integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
21 Illinois; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we congratulate our friend and colleague, Illinois State
3 Representative Kent Gaffney, on the occasion of his retirement,
4 thank him for his service to the people of the State, and wish
5 him continued success and happiness in the future; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Representative Kent Gaffney as a symbol of our
9 esteem and respect.