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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly wish to honor 4 south suburban mayors as they complete their time in office; Mayors Irene H. Brodie, Donald Peloquin, Lou Sherman, and Jack Swan have decided to retire after years of public service; and

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WHEREAS, Irene Brodie launched her campaign for the mayorship of the Village of Robbins in 1989 and has held the position ever since; she is the current, longest-serving, female, African-American mayor in the nation; her reign as mayor saw improvements in the water and sewer systems, roads and transportation, code enforcement, economic development, grant procurement, land acquisition, residential development, and public safety; her 36-year tenure in government consists of 12 years as municipal clerk for the Village of Robbins and 24 years as the mayor; she is a longtime educator and administrator; her scholarship program has funded the tuition costs for hundreds of students throughout the years and her individual efforts have produced teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and educators around the globe; she has hired, financially supported, tutored, counseled, and graduated hundreds of residents from Robbins and the surrounding communities; and

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1           WHEREAS, Irene Brodie was the vice-president of the  
2 Illinois Municipal League, executive board member and  
3 assistant secretary of the National Conference of Black Mayors,  
4 and the chair of the Education Committee and Scholarship  
5 Committee for the National Conference of Black Mayors; she has  
6 been appointed to numerous gubernatorial transition teams and  
7 has been on various State and federal advisory boards; she was  
8 a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus under Mayor Richard  
9 Daley, served on President Clinton's environmental think-tank  
10 group, and was a guest lecturer at the Harvard University  
11 Graduate School of Business; she is married to J. Edmon Brodie  
12 and they have one child, Jeraye E. Brodie; and

13           WHEREAS, Donald Peloquin is a lifelong resident of Blue  
14 Island and has been mayor since 1985; he was alderman of the  
15 4th Ward from 1981-1985; he is a member of various  
16 organizations including the Southwest Conference of Mayors,  
17 the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, and the  
18 Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; he is chairman of the CREATE  
19 Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Council; and

20           WHEREAS, Lou Sherman has been the Steger Village President  
21 since 1973; during his years as mayor, he served as president  
22 of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and as  
23 head of the organization's transportation committee; he was a  
24 member of the Chicago Area Transportation Study; he has held

1 volunteer positions at the county and State level, being  
2 appointed to the Cook County Community Block Grant advisory  
3 board in 1977 and as vice-president of the Illinois Municipal  
4 League in 1994; he moved to Steger in 1958 and became a member  
5 of the Steger Kiwanis Club and head of its boy's baseball  
6 league; he and his wife, Andrea, are members of St. Liborius  
7 Church; he is a former Kiwanis Lt. Governor and a life member  
8 of the organization as well as three-time president of the  
9 local Kiwanis; he is a member of the Steger DARE committee, the  
10 Chamber of Commerce, and the American Legion; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Swan has been the Thornton Village President  
12 for the past 20 years; during his 5 terms as village president,  
13 he has established a full-time paramedic program, expanded the  
14 police and public works departments, and created a full-time  
15 recreation department; he has overseen numerous large economic  
16 development projects within the community and has helped keep  
17 Thornton's tax rates stable; during and after his office hours  
18 he always made himself available to residents to listen to  
19 their ideas and concerns; he spearheaded the free senior  
20 citizen driveway and sidewalk plowing program and at times,  
21 personally plowed the school-route sidewalks for Wolcott  
22 students; he has lived in Thornton for 45 years and has been  
23 married to Peggy for 46 and they have 3 children, Jim, Penny,  
24 and Jackie; and

1           WHEREAS, Mayors Sherman, Brodie, Peloquin, and Swan will be  
2 honored at the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association  
3 dinner on March 21, 2013; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
6 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we honor and thank these 4  
7 individuals for the service they have given to their  
8 communities over these past many years and wish them well in  
9 all their future endeavours; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Mayors Irene Brodie, Donald Peloquin, Lou Sherman,  
12 and Jack Swan as an expression of our esteem and respect.