



HR0098

LRB098 10883 MST 41394 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Honorable Terrence J. O'Brien, having
3 dutifully served as a commissioner on the board for the
4 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
5 since 1988, announced his retirement as a commissioner
6 effective November 30, 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, Following in his father, William M. O'Brien, and
8 his grandfather, John P. Hickey's footsteps, Terrence J.
9 O'Brien wanted to serve the residents of Cook County by working
10 for what was then known as the Metropolitan Sanitary District;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Terrence J. O'Brien was first elected in November
13 1988 to a 6-year term as commissioner and was re-elected in
14 1994, 2000, and 2006; and

15 WHEREAS, Proving himself to be an effective leader,
16 Terrence J. O'Brien was elected president of the Board of
17 Commissioners in 1997 for a 2-year term, and was unanimously
18 re-elected by his fellow commissioners 7 times; and

19 WHEREAS, Making fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers a
20 priority during Commissioner O'Brien's terms as president, the
21 district is one of the few governmental agencies in the State

1 of Illinois to have an AAA bond rating and abated over \$228
2 million dollars back to the taxpayers of Cook County; and

3 WHEREAS, Passionate about the district's goal to protect
4 our environment, President O'Brien actively pursued continuous
5 funding for the MWRDGC's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), one
6 of the largest civil engineering projects ever undertaken and
7 named the American Society of Engineers' Most Outstanding Civil
8 Engineering Project of 1986; and

9 WHEREAS, It was under President O'Brien's leadership that
10 the world saw the completion of the 109 mile network of
11 tunnels, an integral piece of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan,
12 allowing the district to capture and treat up to 2.3 billion
13 gallons of sewer overflow during storms that otherwise would
14 end up in the waterways; and

15 WHEREAS, Recognizing that many individual Chicago land
16 communities lack the technical expertise and funding
17 capabilities to handle flooding issues, President O'Brien
18 spent 7 unrelenting years garnering the necessary support in
19 Springfield for the passage of Public Act 93-1049 (ACT)
20 granting authority for general supervision of stormwater
21 management in Cook County to the district, which was indeed
22 passed on November 17, 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, President O'Brien instituted the (800) 332-DUMP
2 pollution hotline number for citizens to report illegal dumping
3 of materials into sewers and waterways, enabling the district
4 to take immediate action against these violators and protect
5 the environment; and

6 WHEREAS, Other various organizations have benefited from
7 President O'Brien's vast knowledge and generous dedication of
8 his time through his service on their executive boards,
9 including but not limited to the Ground Hog Club of Chicago,
10 the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, his alma mater, John
11 Carroll University's President's Council, and the Special
12 Olympics Program for Misericordia Homes; and

13 WHEREAS, President O'Brien, no stranger to public
14 recognition, has received, among others, the following awards:
15 Statesman of the Year for the International Union of Operating
16 Engineers, Local No. 150, the Illinois Committee for Honest
17 Government Award, the Excellence in Community Service Award
18 from John Carroll University, the Distinguished Service Award
19 from the American Public Works Association, and the Public
20 Service Award from the Water Environment Federation; and

21 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives extends its
22 heartfelt wishes for as much success in his retirement as Terry
23 has enjoyed throughout his career and express our sincere

1 gratitude to his family, including his wife Julie, sons Kevin
2 and Patrick and daughter, Therese for allowing the district to
3 take advantage of Terry's outstanding commitment and
4 unparalleled talents for the benefit of all the residents of
5 the district; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we do hereby recognize Terrence J. O'Brien's dedicated service
9 for 24 years to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and
10 express our gratitude and appreciation for his work on behalf
11 of the taxpayers of the district; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to President Terrence J. O'Brien as an expression of
14 our esteem and respect.