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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Friends of the Parks is a non-profit advocacy  
3 group based in Chicago; the group's mission is to preserve,  
4 protect, improve, and promote the use of parks in Chicago and  
5 in the forest preserves of Cook County; and

6           WHEREAS, Erma Tranter has been the President and Chief  
7 Executive Officer of Friends of the Parks for over 33 years;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, During Erma's tenure, Friends of the Parks has  
10 grown into one of the most respected and influential  
11 environmental advocacy groups in Illinois; and

12           WHEREAS, Friends of the Parks improves the quality of life  
13 in our State through programs that protect land of public value  
14 along our lakefront and in our neighborhoods, through volunteer  
15 activities that enlist citizens to adopt and steward their  
16 local parks and through environmental education programs that  
17 engage hundreds of Chicago Public School children each year,  
18 and by pursuits that inform the public through lectures, tours,  
19 and publications; and

20           WHEREAS, Erma's efforts have helped foster the Chicago  
21 Marathon, the Garfield Park Conservancy Alliance, the DuSable

1 Coalition, and the Clean Harbors Initiative, among many others;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Through Erma's work, hundreds of acres of land  
4 have been transferred to the Chicago Park District, and thereby  
5 have been saved from private development; and

6 WHEREAS, Erma spearheaded the Last Four Miles, an  
7 initiative to expand Chicago's lakefront park system, from  
8 Evanston to the Indiana border; and

9 WHEREAS, Erma was a moving force in the creation of two  
10 signature Chicago annual events, the L.A.T.E. Ride and the  
11 Earth Day Parks & Preserves Clean Up; and

12 WHEREAS, Through her efforts, 23 acres of prairie and  
13 wetlands on the northwest side of Chicago were saved from  
14 development and designated as the Dunning-Read Conservation  
15 Area; and

16 WHEREAS, Erma's leadership encouraged and supported  
17 partnerships with many kindred organizations, including, but  
18 not limited to the Chicago Park District, the Forest Preserve  
19 District of Cook County, Friends of the River, Friends of the  
20 Forest Preserves, Openlands, and the Chicago Area Runners  
21 Association; and

1           WHEREAS, After 33 years of exemplary service to Illinois,  
2 Erma plans to leave Friends of the Parks in order to take on a  
3 new challenge, bringing medical supplies to Guatemalan  
4 villages; therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we applaud Erma Tranter's efforts and results in preserving the  
8 State's environment, congratulate her for enhancing the fabric  
9 of our shared lives, commend her for her devotion to protecting  
10 and nurturing our natural areas, and offer our best wishes for  
11 her continued success in the future; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That we salute Erma Tranter on February 6, 2014,  
13 as Friends of the Parks expresses its appreciation for her work  
14 well done at its annual meeting and offers its enthusiastic  
15 wishes for her continuing success in the next chapters of her  
16 life; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to Erma Tranter as a symbol of our esteem and  
19 respect.