



HR0197

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate William L. Perry on the
4 occasion of his retirement as President of Eastern Illinois
5 University in Charleston; and

6 WHEREAS, William Perry earned bachelor's degrees in both
7 mathematics and history from Park College in Parkville,
8 Missouri, where he also played basketball; he later chose to
9 study at the University of Illinois, where he earned both his
10 master's degree and Ph.D. in mathematics; and

11 WHEREAS, William Perry began his association with Texas A&M
12 University in College Station, Texas in 1971 as an assistant
13 professor of mathematics; he completed his 36-year tenure there
14 as vice provost in June of 2007; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 1, 2007, William Perry left Texas and
16 returned to the Midwest, where he was born and raised, to
17 assume the role of Eastern Illinois University's 11th
18 President; and

19 WHEREAS, Under William Perry's leadership, Eastern
20 Illinois University has been named by U.S. News & World Report
21 as the top-ranked public regional university in Illinois and

1 ranked number 4 in the 12-state Midwest Region; U.S. News &
2 World Report also listed Eastern as the number 13 "Best College
3 for Veterans" among Midwestern regional universities (public
4 and private); Eastern Illinois University unveiled its
5 Renewable Energy Center, one of the largest university biomass
6 installations in the country; Eastern Illinois University
7 continued to build its reputation for community service by
8 being named 3 consecutive years to the President's Higher
9 Education Community Service Honor Roll, with more than 80% of
10 Eastern's students participating in volunteerism during their
11 time in Charleston and collectively logging more than 140,000
12 hours of service during the previous academic year alone; and

13 WHEREAS, William Perry always promoted Eastern Illinois
14 University as an excellent educational opportunity, with small
15 classes taught by the finest faculty and where 98% of alumni
16 are satisfied with their Eastern Illinois University
17 education; Eastern Illinois University conferred 22,000
18 degrees during his tenure; and

19 WHEREAS, William Perry enthusiastically supported Eastern
20 athletics and was often seen out in the community promoting
21 Eastern Illinois University's "Real Panthers Wear Blue" spirit
22 campaign or in the stands, wearing his blue wig and cheering
23 alongside students; Eastern Illinois University's
24 student-athletes excelled both academically and athletically,

1 winning the Ohio Valley Conference Commissioner's Cup for
2 overall athletic excellence 3 times; and

3 WHEREAS, William Perry enhanced the culture of
4 philanthropy at Eastern Illinois University by expecting
5 greatness from himself and the Eastern family, while remaining
6 committed to access and affordability for students; Eastern
7 Illinois University experienced 4 consecutive record-setting
8 years in fundraising, with support that includes the largest
9 and most successful capital campaign in Eastern Illinois
10 University history, the establishment of approximately 300 new
11 scholarships, and administrative visits to more than 640
12 alumni; and

13 WHEREAS, William Perry was honored with the Distinguished
14 Alumnus Award from Park College in 1999; and

15 WHEREAS, William Perry is a student of languages and enjoys
16 reading, but also enjoys being active; hiking, snowshoeing, and
17 shooting hoops remain some of his favorite pastimes; and

18 WHEREAS, William Perry and his wife, Linda, have a son,
19 Greg; a daughter, Deborah; and one grandson, Grayson, with whom
20 he anticipates spending much more of his time; and

21 WHEREAS, William Perry serves as a model of hard work,

1 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
2 Illinois; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
5 congratulate William L. Perry on the occasion of his retirement
6 and wish him continued success and happiness in the future; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to William Perry as a symbol of our esteem and
10 respect.