

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives are
3 pleased to recognize notable achievements of citizens from
4 the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that James H.
6 Thomas is celebrating his second pastoral anniversary with
7 the 1st Corinthian Family Missionary Baptist Church in
8 Chicago on February 15, 2002; and

9 WHEREAS, James H. Thomas was born to James and Emma
10 Thomas on July 28, 1954; he was raised in a Christian family
11 and spent most of his time in church; as he became older, he
12 began to separate himself from the church; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1971, Mr. Thomas joined the United States
14 Navy, and was released with an honorable discharge after
15 serving two years; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1978 Mr. Thomas was reunited with his
17 childhood sweetheart, Ethel L. Smith; they married in
18 September 1979 and are the parents of two children, Etoya and
19 Ebonie; and

20 WHEREAS, In February 1980, Mr. Thomas became a member of
21 the Chicago Fire Department; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1987, Mr. Thomas reunited with his Christian
23 faith and returned to 1st Corinthian Missionary Baptist
24 Church, where he was a member of the choir; he established a
25 very close relationship with Pastor Wiley C. Cosey, who in
26 turn, put him on trial to become a Deacon; and

27 WHEREAS, In November 1988, James Thomas officially became
28 a Deacon and continued to work closely with Pastor Cosey; in
29 July 1989, he informed Pastor Cosey that he was venturing
30 onward in his ambition to become a pastor; in September 1989,

1 Pastor Thomas preached his first sermon, "What are you going
2 to do with what you have", the 25th Chapter of Matthew in
3 front of his congregation at 1st Corinthian Missionary
4 Baptist Church; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we congratulate Pastor James H. Thomas on the celebration of
8 his second anniversary as pastor of the 1st Corinthian
9 Missionary Baptist Church in Chicago; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Pastor James H. Thomas as an expression of our
12 esteem.