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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to acknowledge the work of Dr. Raja R. Gopaldas, a cardiothoracic surgeon living in Springfield; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gopaldas, the son of Dr. Muthusamy Chinnapapu and Dr. Singaravelu Gopaldas of Salem, India, completed his training in heart surgery in Texas under the mentorship of renowned heart surgeon, Dr. Denton A. Cooley, and gained his experience in complex aortic and aneurysm surgery under Dr. Joseph S. Coselli; and

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WHEREAS, Before arriving in Springfield, Dr. Gopaldas performed outstanding work as a heart surgeon in Texas and then at the University of Missouri, where he was also the Director of Cardiothoracic Research; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Gopaldas practices with Prairie Cardiovascular Consultants, one of the largest cardiovascular practice groups in Illinois, where some of his interests include aortic aneurysms, minimally invasive surgery, congenital heart disease, esophageal surgery, esophageal cancer, atrial fibrillation, heart disease in women, and heart transplants; and

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1           WHEREAS, Dr. Gopaldas recently reached a milestone having  
2 successfully completed 100 minimally invasive cardiac  
3 surgeries since beginning to perform the procedure in  
4 Springfield in July of 2015; and

5           WHEREAS, The new minimally invasive cardiac surgery method  
6 is performed through one small incision, typically about two to  
7 three inches in length, compared to the eight inch incision in  
8 the chest, which is needed for the traditional "open surgery"  
9 technique; and

10          WHEREAS, Minimally invasive cardiac surgery to replace  
11 heart valves, repair arteries or holes in the heart, or to  
12 treat atrial fibrillation provides patients with faster  
13 recovery and less pain; and

14          WHEREAS, Patients receiving minimally invasive cardiac  
15 surgery become active much faster because the breastbone is not  
16 split and they avoid the complications of inactivity after  
17 traditional surgery; and

18          WHEREAS, The minimally invasive approach leaves the  
19 sternum preserved in the event a patient needs another type of  
20 heart surgery in the future; and

21          WHEREAS, The only practice in Illinois, aside from one

1 hospital in Chicago, offering minimally invasive heart  
2 procedures is located in Springfield, and some patients travel  
3 200 miles or more for this important, life-saving procedure;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Gopaldas strives to deliver the best and most  
6 compassionate care to his patients and his work in  
7 minimally-invasive cardiac surgery is a major contribution to  
8 the health and welfare of people in the Midwest; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Gopaldas has won numerous awards and accolades  
10 in the field of surgery, research, innovation, and education;  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 congratulate Dr. Raja R. Gopaldas on his outstanding  
15 accomplishments and encourage him to continue his research and  
16 innovative work in the field of cardiothoracic surgery, lung,  
17 vascular, and cancer surgery, especially minimally invasive  
18 surgery; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Dr. Gopaldas as an expression of our esteem and  
21 respect.