



HR0167

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor Lillian Perry for her hard work and dedication to the people of Aurora; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1950s Lillian Perry made her way north from Dawson, Georgia; she settled in Aurora, where she worked and raised her daughter Darlene Perry; after moving, Lillian began a life-long commitment to service and advocacy on behalf of justice, equality, dignity, integration, and civil rights, she is a product of the Civil Rights Movement; and

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WHEREAS, In 1978, her commitment to government and community service led her to the position of special assistant to Aurora's late Honorable Mayor Hill; during her tenure as special assistant, she encouraged Mayor Hill to start a Human Service Department; Lillian Perry was actively involved in efforts that led to the creation of the Kane County Health Department; and

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WHEREAS, In 1978, funds became available for neighborhood street improvement; the program was called the Community Development Block Fund, which was very important to Lillian's community because residents' homes had been flooding with water and these funds helped eliminate problems related to flooding;

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1 the project called for the homeowners to invest some of their  
2 own money into the project; Ms. Perry armed herself with a pen  
3 and application forms and went door to door in the neighborhood  
4 in an effort to make the program a reality; it succeeded  
5 because of her efforts and hard work; and

6 WHEREAS, Lillian has committed her time, energy, and  
7 experience to create a better community for all the citizens of  
8 Aurora, especially minority and senior citizens, through  
9 ongoing political and social activities; countless Aurora  
10 citizens have been aided by projects and programs which were  
11 created and supported by Lillian's boundless spirit, such as  
12 the Citizens for Neighborhood Improvement, Blacks in Politics,  
13 Aurora Youth Job Program, and the East Side Special Service  
14 Area; and

15 WHEREAS, Lillian retired from Sealmaster Bearing after  
16 working there for 30 years; in her constant quest for  
17 knowledge, she attended classes at Waubensee Community College  
18 and later attended Roosevelt University; and

19 WHEREAS, Lillian can be found on a daily basis addressing  
20 issues that affect the African-American community, engaging  
21 local, county, and State officials in conversation and action;  
22 this drive and commitment led to her position at State  
23 Representative Linda Chapa LaVia's office as a Senior Citizen

1 and African American liaison; and

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Perry has been giving back to the community  
3 for 48 years; because of this commitment she has been the  
4 recipient of a number of awards, including: a Certificate of  
5 Special Recognition from the City of Aurora, a Community  
6 Service Award from Gayles Memorial Baptist Church, a  
7 Certificate of Achievement from Roosevelt University's Labor  
8 Education Program, recognition from Women of Distinction from  
9 the YWCA, and an award from the Friends of Marie Wilkinson  
10 Child Development Center for Distinguished Black Community  
11 Leadership; and

12 WHEREAS, Lillian Perry has lived a life of achievement and  
13 has worked to make Aurora a better place to live; therefore, be  
14 it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 thank Lillian Perry for her dedication and giving to the people  
18 of Aurora; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Lillian Perry as a symbol of our respect.