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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Robert Coomer on  
4 the occasion of his retirement as Director of the Illinois  
5 Historic Preservation Agency after 28 years of service; and

6           WHEREAS, Robert Coomer was raised in Springfield; he  
7 graduated from Western Illinois University before receiving  
8 his master's degree from the University of Illinois; and

9           WHEREAS, Robert Coomer began his career in conservation in  
10 1979; in 1982, he became the Superintendent of Historic Sites  
11 with the Department of Conservation; he became Superintendent  
12 of Historic Sites with the Illinois Historic Preservation  
13 Agency after the agency's formation in 1985; he was named IHPA  
14 Director on September 1, 2004; and

15           WHEREAS, As IHPA Director, Robert Coomer was involved in  
16 establishing the criteria for the selection of the Abraham  
17 Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's architect and  
18 exhibit designer; he also participated in the conceptual and  
19 design phases of the project; on April 19, 2005, Director  
20 Coomer, along with Governor Rod Blagojevich, welcomed  
21 President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, a host of  
22 dignitaries, and 25,000 spectators to the Abraham Lincoln

1 Presidential Library and Museum's grand opening; Director  
2 Coomer has also helped bring back seven-day-per-week  
3 operations at most of the State's historic sites during the  
4 summer tourism season; and

5 WHEREAS, Robert Coomer will be remembered by his colleagues  
6 and co-workers as an accessible, dedicated, and enthusiastic  
7 director whose honesty and fairness endeared him to everyone he  
8 met; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
11 congratulate Robert Coomer on the occasion of his retirement  
12 and wish him continued success and happiness in the future; and  
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to Robert Coomer as a symbol of our esteem and  
16 respect.