



HR1259

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Eastern Illinois University Swim Coach Ray Padovan on his retirement; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Padovan is the dean of Eastern Illinois University (EIU) coaches and a former NCAA record-holder; he accomplished a lot in his final season, earning Summit League mens' Coach-of-the-Year honors; during his tenure, he has coached EIU to eight conference championships, including three (two men's, one women's) Midwest Championships; his career dual-meet record stands at 423-329-1; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Padovan successfully fought for and saved the men's programs at EIU; Ray Padovan developed the Panther swimming program into one the most well respected in the country over five decades; he has had a positive impact on two or three thousand students during his 42-year coaching and teaching career; the men's team, along with wrestling was terminated in 1995, and he fought to save the programs and ultimately succeeded in reinstating both; he also worked to strengthen the team and put it on stronger footing; and

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WHEREAS, Coach Padovan was named the 1981 NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year' after directing the Panthers to a

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1 sixth place national finish in Eastern's last year at that  
2 level; in 14 years of NAIA or NCAA Division II competition, he  
3 has coached the men to nine top 10 finishes, with 24 swimmers  
4 earning 124 total All-American honors; and

5 WHEREAS, In three years of competition at the Association  
6 of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) Division II  
7 national meet, Ray Padovan led the women to 25th, 12th, and  
8 15th place between 1981-1983 and nine Panther women earned 32  
9 All-American honors; and

10 WHEREAS, Coach Padovan is a member of the Southern Illinois  
11 University Hall of Fame, where he set NCAA records in the 50  
12 and 100-freestyles back in 1961 while earning his undergraduate  
13 degree in physical education in 1964 and a master's degree in  
14 health in 1965; he finished third in the 50 in 1961 with a  
15 22.20, a time that would place him 7th on his current team; and

16 WHEREAS, He coached one year at Eastern New Mexico, where  
17 the Greyhounds were second at the NAIA National Tournament; he  
18 is a native of North Miami, Florida, and competed at the  
19 Masters Championships in 1986, where he set five national 45-49  
20 age group records; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we

1 congrautlate Ray Padovan for a great career and wish him the  
2 best for the future; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Coach Ray Padovan as a symbol of our respect.