



HR1574

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Fred Rakers,
4 longtime coach of the Mater Dei High School girls volleyball
5 team, on his retirement; and

6 WHEREAS, The team recently won its sixth State
7 championship; Coach Rakers leaves with a coaching record of
8 1,046 wins, 200 losses, and 7 ties, the second-most wins in the
9 history of Illinois volleyball according to Illinois High
10 School Association records; and

11 WHEREAS, Nationally ranked Mater Dei defeated Joliet
12 Catholic in November of 2010 to win the Class 3A State title,
13 finishing the season 41-1; the Knights also won State
14 championships in 1987, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 2001; and

15 WHEREAS, During the three State championship seasons from
16 1993-95, the Knights rolled through with a 118-4 record; in
17 1994, they were a perfect 38-0; 2010 marked the Knights' 20th
18 State tournament appearance, and Coach Rakers just completed
19 his 35th year as head coach; he began coaching in 1976; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Rakers said he plans to continue teaching,
21 which he has done at Mater Dei for 42 years; he has also hinted

1 about staying around to help the program in some capacity,
2 perhaps as an assistant coach; and

3 WHEREAS, Coach Rakers says he learned to coach volleyball
4 by reading a book he found in the Mater Dei school library;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 congratulate Coach Fred Rakers on his career as a volleyball
9 coach for Mater Dei High School and wish him continued success
10 for years to come; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Coach Fred Rakers as a symbol of our respect and
13 esteem.