



HR0207

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Bill Lair,
4 Managing Editor of the Mattoon Journal Gazette and the
5 Charleston Times-Courier, on his retirement; and

6 WHEREAS, He began his career on July 1, 1973, serving as
7 sports editor for the Times-Courier; he began reporting in time
8 to see the Charleston High School football team advance to the
9 State semifinals three consecutive years, the Eastern Illinois
10 University basketball team qualify for several Division II
11 tournaments, and many other sports highlights in the area; a
12 considerable athlete himself, he has run seven marathons and
13 seven half marathons; and

14 WHEREAS, He became managing editor of the Times-Courier in
15 1980, shortly after he left sports for a position in which he
16 had both reporting and editing roles; and

17 WHEREAS, Among the highlights of his career, Mr. Lair has
18 seen the Eastern Illinois University football team go to a
19 national championship in 1978; his friend and former Eastern
20 Illinois University classmate, Jim Edgar, elected Illinois
21 Governor in 1990; and Mattoon's pursuit of the FutureGen plant;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, He has written more than 3,000 columns and
2 editorials in his distinguished journalistic career, at one
3 time producing two columns every week; his hard work,
4 dedication, and leadership at the Mattoon Journal Gazette and
5 Charleston Times-Courier have contributed immeasurably to the
6 education, entertainment, development, and welfare of the
7 communities he has served; and

8 WHEREAS, He has also served the community in many other
9 ways, including his participation in Rotary, the
10 Lincoln/Sargent Foundation, the Court Appointed Special
11 Advocate Board, the Fourth of July Committee, the Charleston
12 Tourism Board, the Looking for Lincoln Committee, the
13 Charleston Chamber of Commerce Board, the Tarble Arts Center,
14 and the United Way of Coles County Board; he has served as a
15 Charleston Holiday Tournament volunteer and a foster parent;
16 and he continues to serve as chairman of the Central States
17 Rotary Youth Exchange, a position he has held since 2007; and

18 WHEREAS, Bill Lair was honored as Charleston's Citizen of
19 the Year in 2000; and

20 WHEREAS, He and his wife, Cheryl, are the parents of three
21 children: David, Heather, and Patrick; he is looking forward to
22 spending more time with his grandchildren and seeing what new

1 opportunities lie ahead; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we congratulate Bill Lair on his retirement, commend him for
5 his many contributions to the people of Illinois, and wish him
6 the best in his future endeavors; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Bill Lair as a symbol of our respect and esteem.