



HR0345

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives recognize that a significant era in Illinois history is about to conclude on May 16, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, We are pleased to recognize Mayor Richard M. Daley for his outstanding service, decades of diligent work on behalf of the people of Chicago, and countless contributions toward making Illinois a better place; and

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WHEREAS, The fourth of seven children and the eldest son of Eleanor and Richard J. Daley, Richard M. Daley was born on April 24, 1942; he graduated from De La Salle Academy and earned undergraduate and law degrees from DePaul University; and

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WHEREAS, Richard M. Daley began his public service through his service in the United States Marine Corps Reserves and in 1969, when he was elected to serve as an Illinois Constitutional Convention delegate; and

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WHEREAS, We take great pride in noting that Richard M. Daley, like his father, Richard J. Daley, and his brother, John P. Daley, learned the art of governing, compromise, and coalition building in the chambers of the Illinois state

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1 legislature; and

2 WHEREAS, As a member of the Illinois Senate, Richard M.  
3 Daley led the fight to remove the sales tax on food and  
4 medicine, championed landmark measures to improve mental  
5 health care, and established clear-cut, enforceable rights for  
6 nursing home residents; and

7 WHEREAS, From 1980 to 1989, Richard M. Daley served as the  
8 Cook County State's Attorney, establishing a record as a tough  
9 narcotics prosecutor and overhauling laws against rape to  
10 ensure convictions; and

11 WHEREAS, Since his first election as mayor in 1989, Richard  
12 M. Daley earned a much deserved reputation in the City and  
13 beyond for improving the quality of life, bettering the public  
14 schools of Chicago, modernizing public transit, and helping  
15 Chicago become among the most environmentally friendly cities  
16 in the world; and

17 WHEREAS, Richard M. Daley's innovative, community-based  
18 programs continue to tackle the fundamental challenges facing  
19 urban America - quality schools, safe neighborhoods, and work  
20 and business opportunities that stretch to every neighborhood;  
21 and

1           WHEREAS, As a result of Richard M. Daley's focus on  
2 improving public education, student test scores have risen,  
3 dropout rates have fallen, more students are prepared for  
4 college or some form of higher education, and what critics once  
5 labeled one of the worst public school systems in the country  
6 has become a national model for reform; and

7           WHEREAS, Richard M. Daley visualized the need for more  
8 diverse entities like World Business Chicago, and sustained the  
9 spirit and vitality of Chicago with fresh approaches to the  
10 city center, opening Millennium Park, restoring an  
11 irreplaceable treasure, Navy Pier, and ensuring the  
12 modernization of O'Hare International Airport to guarantee its  
13 place as one of the world's true aviation hubs; and

14           WHEREAS, Despite the great growth Chicago has seen during  
15 his tenure, Richard M. Daley has made it an ongoing priority to  
16 control spending, implement innovative techniques, and hold  
17 government to higher standards of accountability; and

18           WHEREAS, Richard M. Daley used his legislative skills to  
19 lobby for strong and sensible gun safety laws, measures which  
20 recognized human rights and civil unions, and critically needed  
21 property tax relief for seniors; and

22           WHEREAS, This thoughtful approach earned Richard M. Daley

1 numerous recognitions, such as being named as a Visionary for  
2 Sustainability by the highly respected National Building  
3 Museum, being picked by Governing Magazine as their Public  
4 Official of the Year, being recognized by Time Magazine as the  
5 nation's top urban executive, and being the recipient of the  
6 Martin Luther King/Robert F. Kennedy Award from the Coalition  
7 to Stop Gun Violence/Education Fund to End Handgun Violence;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Throughout this diverse professional career,  
10 Richard M. Daley remained a devoted husband to Maggie and an  
11 inspirational father to Nora, Patrick, Elizabeth, and the late  
12 Kevin; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
14 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
15 we express our gratitude to Richard M. Daley for his  
16 contributions to the betterment of the State of Illinois and  
17 the City of Chicago and wish him the best in his future  
18 endeavors; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Mayor Richard M. Daley as a symbol of our respect  
21 and esteem.