



HR1395

LRB098 23513 MST 62703 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Representative Tom Cross  
4 of Oswego on his distinguished service to the people of the  
5 State of Illinois; and

6           WHEREAS, Representative Cross has been a member of the  
7 Illinois House of Representatives since 1993 and has served  
8 this body with honor and distinction; and

9           WHEREAS, Representative Cross was born on July 31, 1958 in  
10 Nashville, Tennessee; he grew up in the West Pullman  
11 neighborhood of Chicago before his family moved to Yorkville in  
12 Kendall County, where he graduated with Yorkville High School's  
13 Class of 1976; and

14           WHEREAS, Representative Cross earned a Bachelor of Arts in  
15 Political Science from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1980 and  
16 a Juris Doctor from Samford University's Cumberland School of  
17 Law in 1983; and

18           WHEREAS, Representative Cross married the former Genie  
19 Hovater in 1983, and through more than 31 years of marriage,  
20 have celebrated the births of 2 children, daughter, Reynolds  
21 and son, Hudson; and

1           WHEREAS, Representative Cross was inspired to pursue a life  
2 of public service by his father, the Rev. Thomas Cross, Jr. and  
3 his mother, Ruth Cross, a public school teacher and principal;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Representative Cross was admitted to the Illinois  
6 Bar in 1983 and served as a prosecutor with the Kendall County  
7 State's Attorney's Office from 1984 to 1992; and

8           WHEREAS, Representative Cross was first elected to the  
9 Illinois House of Representatives in 1992, rising to Assistant  
10 Republican Leader in 1999 before being elected by his caucus as  
11 House Republican Leader in 2002, a position he served in until  
12 September of 2013; and

13           WHEREAS, As a member of the General Assembly,  
14 Representative Tom Cross was the sponsor of new laws that  
15 cracked down on fraud and abuse of the State's pension system;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, As House Republican Leader, Representative Cross  
18 fought for budgetary honesty; he was a leading voice within the  
19 General Assembly in opposition to the pseudo-accounting  
20 tactics and fund sweeps used to repeatedly violate the  
21 constitutional requirement that the State balance its

1 operating budget; and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Cross has been noted for his  
3 leadership on key children's health and safety initiatives,  
4 including enhanced research for juvenile diabetes, new  
5 safeguards to protect youth football players from concussions,  
6 and stronger reporting and monitoring requirements for child  
7 sex offenders; and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Cross serves on the Board of  
9 Directors of the Illinois Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes  
10 Research Foundation; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Cross is a partner with the firm of  
12 Mahoney, Silverman, and Cross in Joliet; and

13 WHEREAS, Representative Cross has been honored by scores of  
14 organizations over the years in recognition of his outstanding  
15 service in the General Assembly, including the Illinois State's  
16 Attorneys Association, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of  
17 Police, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Farm  
18 Bureau, and the Illinois Health Care Association, among many  
19 others; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Representative Tom Cross on his outstanding  
2 service as a member of the General Assembly and as House  
3 Republican Leader from 2003 from 2013, and we wish him the best  
4 in all his future endeavors; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to Representative Cross and his family as an  
7 expression of our esteem and respect for our colleague and  
8 friend.