



HR0921

LRB099 16897 MST 41244 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Mayor Mark William Eckert on the occasion of his 60th birthday; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert was born in the City of Belleville on January 18, 1956 to Robert Henry and Shirley Ann "Ma" Eckert; he has a brother, Mike, who is married to Jean; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert grew up in Belleville and attended Henry Raab School and Central Jr. High; and

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WHEREAS, On March 19, 1973, Mayor Eckert began working for Pete Gaerdner Funeral Home and Ambulance Service and continued his employment there for a total of 15 years until 1988; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert graduated from Belleville West High School in 1974, where he participated in many school activities, was elected Class President, and became the first recipient of the Student of the Year Award; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert is a graduate of the Southwestern Illinois Police Academy and studied at Belleville Area College for Law Enforcement and Paramedic EMT Training; and

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1 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert married Rita nearly 30 years ago on
2 April 5, 1986 and they have 4 children: Matt Joseph, who
3 married Carly Miller on May 30, 2015; Kate Ann; Luke Joseph,
4 who became engaged to Erika Roche on October 30, 2015; and Lucy
5 Ann; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert co-founded the Franklin Neighborhood
7 Community Association and served as its Executive Director from
8 1992 until 1995; and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert was active in Boy Scouting throughout
10 his life and served as Scoutmaster for 12 years, where by his
11 guidance, Matt and Luke achieved the rank of Eagle Scout along
12 with almost 30 other scouts; and

13 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert is a life-long member and past
14 President of St. Paul United Church of Christ; and

15 WHEREAS, From 1997 until 2004, Mayor Eckert served as
16 Alderman for Ward 5 for the City of Belleville; and

17 WHEREAS, On December 20, 2004, Mayor Eckert was appointed
18 Mayor of the City of Belleville, and in April of 2005, he was
19 elected to serve a 4-year term; he was elected to a third term
20 in April of 2009 and a fourth term in April of 2013; and

1 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert has earned many awards in his career
2 and he continues to expand his service and dedication to
3 enhancing programs and services for the City of Belleville by
4 serving on numerous boards and committees, including as
5 Vice-President for the Illinois Municipal League Board and as
6 President for the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors; and

7 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert and his wife have owned and operated
8 Eckert Florist for 16 years, since September 9, 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor Eckert is known for his unconditional love
10 for his family, strong character, devout leadership,
11 commitment to his community, volunteerism spirit, and for
12 promoting the vision and growth of Belleville; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 congratulate Mayor Mark William Eckert on his 60th birthday and
16 wish him many more wonderful years; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Mayor Eckert as an expression of our esteem and
19 respect.