



HR1307

LRB099 22054 GRL 49334 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate John W. Wilson on the
4 occasion of his retirement as Director of the Lan-Oak Park
5 District; and

6 WHEREAS, John Wilson's very first job was as a golf caddie
7 at Danville Country Club at the age of ten; he thoroughly
8 enjoyed the parks and recreation field at an early age; and

9 WHEREAS, John Wilson attended Illinois State University,
10 majoring in Recreation and Park Administration; soon after
11 graduation, he took a job as a Recreation Planner at the
12 Danville Park District; and

13 WHEREAS, John Wilson was employed as Director of Parks and
14 Recreation at Chicago Ridge Park District and Grayslake Park
15 District; and

16 WHEREAS, During John Wilson's tenure, he received the
17 President's Award in 1985 while at Chicago Ridge; he also
18 initiated Grayslake's first ever park development program; and

19 WHEREAS, John Wilson continued his work until he was called
20 to serve as Superintendent of the LaGrange Park District for

1 two years; and

2 WHEREAS, John Wilson was one of the founding fathers of the
3 Southwest Special Recreation Association; and

4 WHEREAS, During his parks and recreation career, John
5 Wilson received grants for more than \$26 million in park
6 improvements; he was also awarded DePaul University's Chaddick
7 Institute Award for Metropolitan Development; and

8 WHEREAS, John Wilson ended his career with 17 years as
9 Director of Parks and Recreation at Lan-Oak Park District in
10 Lansing; and

11 WHEREAS, While serving as Director of Parks and Recreation
12 at Lan-Oak Park District, John Wilson renovated the Eisenhower
13 Recreation and Fitness Center and spearheaded the Pennsey
14 Greenway bike path running from Calumet City to Indiana; and

15 WHEREAS, John Wilson negotiated land donations from
16 developers exceeding \$6 million for new parks and acquisition
17 of a private swimming pool funding by the Illinois Build
18 Program; and

19 WHEREAS, John Wilson is an active member of the Illinois
20 Parks and Recreation Foundation Board, the South Suburban Park

1 and Recreation Professional Association, the Save a Life
2 Foundation, the PADS Homeless Shelter, the Parks and Recreation
3 Advisory Commission, the Chicago Southland Convention and
4 Visitors Bureau's Sports Commission, and many others; and

5 WHEREAS, John Wilson retired from public service in April
6 of 2016 after more than 30 years of service; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
8 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
9 congratulate Director John W. Wilson on the occasion of his
10 retirement and thank him for his years of dedication and
11 service to the communities he has helped throughout his career;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
14 the John Wilson as a token of our respect.