



HR1373

LRB099 22720 GRL 50151 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Carl and Melinda Cannon on
4 the occasion of winning the Whitney M. Young Award from the Boy
5 Scouts of America; and

6 WHEREAS, Carl Cannon spent most of his career in law
7 enforcement; after graduating from Peoria Central High School,
8 he joined the United States Army, where he distinguished
9 himself in the ranks of the Military Police; SFC Cannon was
10 awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster),
11 the Army Commendation Medal (4th Cluster), and the Army
12 Achievement Medal (5th Cluster), as well as a Meritorious Unit
13 Award for his role in quelling a riot at the United States
14 Disciplinary Barracks in 1994; in 2010, he was designated as
15 the United States Army Illinois Citizen of Interest; and

16 WHEREAS, Wanting to return to his hometown when he retired
17 from the military, Carl Cannon accepted a position at the
18 nearby Pekin Federal Correctional Institution; in 2000, he
19 received the nationally recognized Selective Placement Program
20 Manager of the Year for the North Central Region and was on his
21 way to becoming one of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' best and
22 brightest; his career path was cut short when he decided that
23 he no longer wanted to excel at keeping men in prison, but

1 rather focus on what he could do with youth to keep them from
2 going to prison in the first place; this focus led him to begin
3 his transition from a Correctional Officer to a Youth Outreach
4 Pioneer; he now serves as Assistant General Manager of
5 Recreation with responsibility for Youth Outreach at the Peoria
6 Park District; and

7 WHEREAS, Carl Cannon has taken his motivational "do right"
8 message to well over 400,000 youth in Illinois, Kansas,
9 Michigan, Ohio, and Washington D.C.; he is a past member of the
10 Children's Hospital Advisory Board, the Pediatric Resource
11 Center Board, and the Catholic Charities Board of Directors; he
12 is also a Commissioner with the Peoria Housing Authority and a
13 member of the Don't Shoot Governance Board; and

14 WHEREAS, Carl Cannon founded the ELITE Youth Outreach
15 Program in 2006; through ELITE, he and an army of volunteers
16 have trained over 1,100 students in the ELITE soft-skills
17 curriculum in eight different area high schools; the ELITE
18 Program has an everyday presence in two Peoria public schools,
19 where ELITE Compliance Officers help maintain discipline so
20 teachers can teach; since the ELITE Re-Entry Program was
21 founded in 2009, 115 individuals have successfully graduated
22 from the program with a recidivism rate of around 8%,
23 significantly lower than the 60% national recidivism rate; and

1 WHEREAS, Carl Cannon was a recipient of the 2003 National
2 Parks and Recreation Association Humanitarian Service Award,
3 the 2003 Illinois Attorney General Peace Keeper Award, the 2003
4 National Everyday Heroes Award from Court TV and Insight
5 Communications, and the 2004 National Caring Award; he was
6 inducted into the National Caring Hall of Fame in Washington
7 D.C.; he is a 2005 inductee of the Central Illinois African
8 American Hall of Fame, a 2007 recipient of the Central Illinois
9 Interfaith Alliance Faith and Freedom Award and the American
10 Red Cross Local Heroes Award, a 2008 inductee of the Rotary
11 Foundation of Rotary International, he is also a recipient of
12 the Paul Harris Fellow Award for Community Service; and

13 WHEREAS, Carl and Melinda Cannon have been married for 33
14 years; they are the parents of two lovely daughters, Summer
15 (Melton) Wright and Danielle (Cody) Randle, and the
16 grandparents of one grandson, Logan, with another grandchild
17 expected in early 2017; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
19 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 congratulate Carl and Melinda Cannon on the occasion of winning
21 the Whitney M. Young Award from the Boy Scouts of America and
22 wish them continued success and happiness in the future; and be
23 it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Carl and Melinda Cannon as a symbol of our esteem
3 and respect.