

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize milestone events in  
4 the lives of the citizens of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that Lt. Col.  
6 Clifford P. Johnson is retiring after 43 years of service to  
7 the Air National Guard and the United States Air Force; and

8 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson began his  
9 distinguished military career in 1955 when he joined the  
10 Civil Air Patrol; in 1958 he graduated from Coral Gables  
11 Senior High School in Miami and then enlisted into the United  
12 States Air Force as Airman 3rd Class at Lackland Air Force  
13 Base in San Antonio, Texas; in September 1958, he was  
14 stationed at Carswell Air Force Base for three years; in  
15 February 1961 he was assigned as a rescue medic at Sidi  
16 Slimane Air Force Base in Morocco; in February 1962 he was  
17 assigned to Bunker Hill Air Force Base in Peru, Indiana, now  
18 known as Grissom Air Force Base, where he was involved in  
19 rescue efforts on numerous B-58 crashes that earned him the  
20 nickname "Crash"; in August 1965 he was assigned to Clark Air  
21 Force Base in the Phillippines where he served as a medic on  
22 helicopter and C-130 and C47 aircraft flying rescue missions  
23 into various areas of Southeast Asia; in June 1966 he was  
24 honorably discharged from the United States Air Force with  
25 the rank of Sergeant; and

26 WHEREAS, In June 1966, Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson  
27 joined the Illinois Air National Guard, 108th Refueling  
28 Squadron as an in-flight refueller; during the next ten  
29 years, he served as in-flight refueller and as in-flight  
30 refueling instructor and later he was promoted to Technical  
31 Sergeant; in March 1974, he attended officers' training at  
32 McGhee-Tyson Air National Guard Base in Knoxville, Tennessee

1 and received his commission on April 3, 1975 as Second  
2 Lieutenant; in April 1978, he was promoted to First  
3 Lieutenant; and

4 WHEREAS, In January of 1979, Lt. Col Clifford P. Johnson  
5 organized and supervised, in conjunction with the City of  
6 Chicago, a massive humanitarian effort to provide  
7 transportation for critically ill kidney dialysis patients to  
8 area hospitals for treatment during the Great Blizzard of  
9 1979; in April 1984, he was promoted to the rank of Captain;  
10 in the spring of 1988 he was transferred to Kirtland Air  
11 Force Base in New Mexico as a base readiness officer; and

12 WHEREAS, In April of 1988, Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson  
13 was promoted to the rank of Major; in the spring of 1990 he  
14 was transferred to Portland, Oregon Air National Guard Base,  
15 244th Combat Communication Squadron where he helped write new  
16 state laws authorizing special license plates for national  
17 guard members, and co-produced, "On Call, Serving America", a  
18 video history of the Oregon Air National Guard; in March  
19 1992, he was transferred to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa,  
20 Florida where he was assigned to 6 Civil Engineering  
21 Squadron; in February 1994, he attended BRUTUS, a tactical  
22 communications course for combat operations held by the  
23 British Royal Air Force in England, where he served as the  
24 only United States military officer to ever be invited to  
25 participate in this program; and

26 WHEREAS, In April 1994, Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson was  
27 promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; in January 1997,  
28 he was transferred to Scott Air Force Base in Belleville,  
29 Illinois, where he co-produced, "Global Reach For America", a  
30 video history of air mobility that has won several awards;  
31 and in March he was transferred to MacDill Air Force Base in  
32 Tampa, Florida where he began engineering and construction of  
33 "Thunder Village", a new on-base training facility that

1 allows military units to train in field conditions; the  
2 Thunder Village was completed in 1998 and will save millions  
3 of taxpayer dollars over its lifetime; and

4 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson is retiring from  
5 the Air National Guard on June 9, 2001 with 42 years, 11  
6 months and 2 days of total service; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 we congratulate Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson on his  
10 retirement after a distinguished career of 43 years in the  
11 United States Military and we wish him well in all of his  
12 future endeavors; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to Lt. Col. Clifford P. Johnson as an expression of  
15 our esteem.