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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Kevin J. Coleman on the occasion of his retirement as Village President of the Village of Hennepin; and

WHEREAS, President Coleman, who was born on July 13, 1953, became a resident of Putnam County at the start of his freshman year of high school in the fall of 1967; he married Jennifer Smith on May 22, 1982, and they became residents of Hennepin in 1984; and

WHEREAS, President Coleman worked professionally as a heavy equipment operator at the ESK silicon carbide plant located near Hennepin, beginning in 1979; he subsequently worked there for 38 years before retiring from the current Washington Mills silicone carbide plant in 2017; and

WHEREAS, President Coleman has served Hennepin for over three decades, beginning as a board trustee in 1993 and holding the position for one term of four years; he then began serving as village president in 1997, holding the position for seven terms across 28 years; he additionally served on the Hennepin Public Water District Board for 28 years, overseeing many updates and improvements to the village's water/sewer

1 system while spending a majority of his tenure as its
2 chairman; and

3 WHEREAS, President Coleman, in serving Hennepin, has
4 overseen and collaborated on a number of projects to the
5 benefit of the village, including the Hazel Marie Boyle Senior
6 Homes project to offer affordable housing for senior citizens,
7 the construction of the new Veterans Memorial at the Walter
8 Durley Boyle Park, the securement of a Port Development Grant
9 to rebuild the old J & L Steel Docks to increase size and
10 capacity, the upgrades made to ball diamonds at village parks
11 to provide a safe place for local Little League teams, the
12 creation of a new sensory park, multiple other improvements to
13 village parks, several major street improvements, including
14 the addition of a bike path on High Street, the funding and
15 creation of a pedestrian bridge to connect Hennepin to the Sue
16 and Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge property, which will be
17 completed in May 2025, and the relocation of a privately owned
18 marina to Hennepin, a project that was initiated in 2024 and is
19 still currently underway, which will establish the village's
20 Big Bend Marina and provide 30 slips, a canvas shop, an Airbnb,
21 and many amenities for boaters; and

22 WHEREAS, President Coleman has served for many years on
23 the boards of the North Central Illinois Economic Development
24 Corporation (NCIEDC) and the North Central Illinois Council of

1 Governments (NCICG), and he currently serves as the assistant
2 secretary of the latter; and

3 WHEREAS, President Coleman and his wife, Jennifer Coleman,
4 have two daughters, Erin (Pep) Zulbeari and Meghan (Blake)
5 Barnes, and two grandchildren, Nora and Enzo; and

6 WHEREAS, President Coleman will retire following the
7 regular village board meeting on April 16, 2025; therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we congratulate Kevin J. Coleman on his retirement as Village
12 President of the Village of Hennepin, thank him for his more
13 than 32 years of service to his community, and wish him the
14 best in his future endeavors; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to President Coleman as an expression of our esteem
17 and respect.