



HR0436

LRB104 14521 ECR 27662 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Kevin Yates on the occasion of celebrating 25 years of service as executive director of the Chillicothe Park District (CPD); and

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WHEREAS, More than 75 years ago, civic leaders acquired open land adjacent to the City of Chillicothe, featuring a distinctive clubhouse and beautiful grounds along the Illinois River, which was used to create an attractive park known as Shore Acres Park; and

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WHEREAS, In the late 1990s, CPD was relying on several individuals to run its facilities, and it became obvious a single, full-time leader was needed; and

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WHEREAS, Kevin Yates, a young, motivated, and energetic individual who had recently earned a degree in parks and recreation from Eastern Illinois University, was offered and accepted the full-time position of executive director of CPD; and

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WHEREAS, Under Kevin Yates' leadership over the past 25 years, CPD has grown from a mostly one park facility to a multiple facility park district, including 250 acres of

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1 parkland that span over nine parks, and has enhanced its
2 heritage park, Shore Acres; and

3 WHEREAS, Kevin Yates has been credited with expanding CPD
4 to cover multiple properties within miles of the municipality,
5 including a water park, a dog park, a splash pad, state-of-the
6 art play equipment, picnic and hiking areas, tennis and
7 pickleball courts, and much more; as a result of his
8 transformative guidance in day-to-day operations, the park
9 district has received wide recognition and now serves 20,000
10 residents; and

11 WHEREAS, Kevin Yates, a nationally recognized,
12 credentialed professional in the field, has become well-known
13 throughout the State for his mentorship of young people who
14 wish to pursue careers in parks and recreation; he has further
15 hired scores of high school and college youth to work in the
16 various roles needed to keep the parks operational and
17 attractive; and

18 WHEREAS, Kevin Yates has also contributed to the City of
19 Chillicothe through his volunteer work, serving in various
20 roles with the Chamber of Commerce, the Pearce Community
21 Center, the Heart of Illinois Special Recreation Association,
22 and Illinois Valley Central Unit School District 321, in
23 addition to his involvement with many other boards, agencies,

1 and communities; and

2 WHEREAS, Kevin Yates, in addition to his professional
3 responsibilities, has established deep roots in Chillicothe as
4 a resident, getting married and raising two children in the
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, Kevin Yates' strong leadership and the importance
7 of CPD has been formally acknowledged by Mayor Michael Hughes,
8 who declared June 11, 2025 as Kevin Yates Day in the City of
9 Chillicothe; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate Kevin Yates on achieving 25 years of service
13 as executive director of the Chillicothe Park District (CPD);
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Kevin Yates as a symbol of our esteem and respect.