



HR0510

LRB104 15850 MST 29063 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Ray Long on the occasion of his retirement after dedicating more than 40 years to covering Illinois politics as an investigative journalist; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Long received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from Sangamon State University, now known as the University of Illinois Springfield; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Long, a Winchester native, started his career as a reporter for the Peoria Journal Star in 1981, where he began covering Illinois politics, and later worked for the Chicago Sun-Times beginning in 1990 and the Associated Press beginning in 1995, before joining the Chicago Tribune in 1998 as its Springfield correspondent; and

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WHEREAS, Ray Long covered Illinois Speaker of the House Michael J. Madigan's career for decades; in 2022, he published his book, *The House That Madigan Built*, which chronicles the former house speaker's rise and fall and provides an inside look into Illinois's complex political history; he provided extensive news coverage of Madigan's federal trial, offering insight and analysis throughout the 12 weeks it unfolded; and

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1           WHEREAS, Ray Long covered many significant moments in  
2 Illinois history, including the impeachment of Gov. Rod  
3 Blagojevich, the beginning of President Barack Obama's run for  
4 the presidency, and many budget impasses; he also covered  
5 Chicago news for decades, including numerous mayoral  
6 administrations and hundreds of city and county hall meetings;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, Ray Long is a founding member of Capitolbeat, a  
9 national organization dedicated to promoting excellence in  
10 coverage of state government, for which he authored a chapter  
11 in a book on investigative reporting, A Guide to Statehouse  
12 Reporting; and

13           WHEREAS, Ray Long has received numerous accolades,  
14 including being selected as Journalist of the Year, being  
15 inducted into the UIS Bill Miller Public Affairs Reporting  
16 Hall of Fame in 2008, and being a Pulitzer Prize finalist in  
17 2017 and 2018; and

18           WHEREAS, Ray Long encourages his fellow reporters to serve  
19 the public by acting as watchdogs and exposing what he  
20 described as a culture of corruption in Illinois politics;  
21 therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we congratulate Ray Long on his retirement after dedicating  
3 more than 40 years to covering Illinois politics as an  
4 investigative journalist, and we thank him for his service to  
5 our community; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Ray Long as a symbol of our respect and esteem.