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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Lee Ranson is retiring after 51 years in the
3 broadcasting business; and

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WHEREAS, Lee Ranson was the only son born to Seymour and
5 Maxine Ranson on November 24, 1941, in Rock Island; and

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WHEREAS, Lee attended Franklin Grade School in Peoria and
Peoria High School before attending the University of Denver in
8 Denver, Colorado, where he became a member of Beta Theta Pi
9 Fraternity and a member of the Denver University Radio Guild;
10 Lee began his career in broadcasting at the campus radio
11 station, KVDU; and

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WHEREAS, Lee returned to Peoria in 1960 to work at WIRL
Radio "The Mighty 1290," as the host of the "Night-Time in
Peoria Show"; Lee's show received one of the highest Pulse
Survey rating in the nation in 1962; that same summer, Lee and
WIRL hosted all the teenagers from the first St. Jude Teen
March for a dance, where he made his first connection with Jim
Maloof and St. Jude; and

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WHEREAS, On December 28, 1962, Lee married his high school
sweetheart, Beverly Betebenner, and together they had 2 sons,
Ron and Brian; and one grandchild; Monica; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1965, Lee joined the station WXCL "The Country
2 Giant," where he was promoted to Music and Program Director,
3 and the station soon became the number one adult radio station
4 in Central Illinois; Lee was nominated for Country Disc Jockey
5 of the Year numerous times; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1971, Lee pursued the opportunity to do
7 television at Channel 19 as a weekend weatherman alongside
8 Rollie Keith; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1981, Lee left radio and joined Channel 19 as a
10 full-time Sales Executive and weekend weather anchor, 3 years
11 later becoming the weekday weather anchor at 5:30 and 10 p.m.;
12 Lee would eventually become the leading sales person and was
13 named Interim Sales manager 3 times; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1994, Lee joined WEEK-TV after the death of
15 longtime weatherman, Bill Houlihan; upon joining WEEK-TV, he
16 reunited with Jim Maloof for the St. Jude Telethon; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2007, Lee was diagnosed with prostate cancer,
18 detecting it early during his yearly physical exam; as a
19 survivor, Lee is now a spokesperson for Prostate Cancer
20 Awareness; and

1 WHEREAS, Lee is active in his community, as an elder at the
2 United Presbyterian Church in Peoria and has been an active
3 supporter of the Salvation Army Tree of Lights and Coats for
4 Kids campaigns for over 17 years; he received the Peoria Police
5 Benevolent Fund Raising Award in 1981 and 1982, the Silver Dome
6 Award in 2007, the "Pinnacle of Achievement Award" from the
7 Salvation Army in 2009, and was nominated for Best Weathercast
8 by the Illinois Broadcasters Association multiple times; Lee
9 and his family are members of the United Way "Pillar's
10 Society"; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we congratulate Lee Ranson on his lifetime of public service
14 and professional success, and we wish him well in the future;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to Lee Ranson as an expression of our respect and
18 esteem.