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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Eldon Arnold will retire from his position as President and CEO of Citizens Equity First Credit Union (CEFCU) on May 1, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Arnold's career as President/CEO of CEFCU, headquartered in Peoria, began in May of 1998; prior to that, he had served as an employee and as a Director of the Credit Union; and

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WHEREAS, Today, CEFCU is one of the largest credit unions in the nation and the largest locally-owned financial institution in Central Illinois with assets of nearly \$3 billion, more than 700 employees, 226,000 members, and 19 Member Centers; and

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WHEREAS, In the eight years under his leadership, CEFCU has realized significant changes; its net worth more than doubled; its assets and loans increased by over \$1 billion; membership increased by 23,500 net new members; New Member Centers were opened in Bloomington, Normal, and Morton, and two more will open in Springfield and northwest Peoria in 2006; and there were many more improvement during his tenure; and

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WHEREAS, Active in the Peoria community, Mr. Arnold has served on the Boards of the Peoria Civic Federation, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing, the Greater Peoria Family YMCA, the Community Foundation of Central Illinois, the Peoria Area Economic Development Council, and the Peoria Historical Society; additionally, he chaired the American Heart Association Heartwalk and served as a member of the Girl Scouts Capital Campaign Cabinet; and

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WHEREAS, He served as a director for MEMBERS Development Corporation, CUNA Mutual, CEFCU, and CEFCU Financial Services,

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1 Inc.; his professional affiliations included membership on the
2 Research Council for the Filene Research Institute (University
3 of Wisconsin), the Credit Union National Association's (CUNA)
4 Payment Systems Subcommittee, the National Association of
5 Federal Credit Union's Legislative Committee, the Filene
6 Research Institute Leadership Circle, and the Central States
7 Credit Union Roundtable; in his retirement, Mr. Arnold plans to
8 remain on the CEFCU Board of Directors; and

9 WHEREAS, His educational background includes study at Iowa
10 State University, Illinois Central College, Stanford
11 University, and the University of Colorado; he was born in
12 Monmouth and lives with his wife, Bev, in Peoria; they have two
13 sons and six grandchildren; he enjoys golf, and he and Bev plan
14 to travel; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
17 we congratulate Eldon Arnold on the occasion of his retirement,
18 and we wish him well in the future; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Mr. Arnold as an expression of our esteem.