



HJ0025

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General
3 Assembly recognize the accomplishments and contributions made
4 by exceptional citizens of the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar, who was raised in Charleston, served
6 in the Illinois House of Representatives from 1977 to 1979, as
7 the 35th Illinois Secretary of State from 1981 to 1991, and as
8 the 38th Governor of Illinois from 1991 to 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, As Secretary of State, Jim Edgar also served as
10 the State Librarian, initiating the Read Illinois program to
11 promote the appreciation of Illinois authors and to showcase
12 the State's literary heritage; and

13 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar maintained a large personal library and
14 a large collection of Illinois history books on loan from the
15 State Library in his office, acquiring the nickname of "The
16 Reader" by his employees at the State Library; and

17 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar established the statewide network,
18 ILLINET Online, which supported a library circulation system
19 for Illinois academic libraries and a resource sharing catalog
20 of five million books, periodicals, videos, and films from 800
21 individual academic, public, special, and school libraries and

1 the then 18 regional library systems; and

2 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar became a foremost advocate of literacy,
3 and he developed an adult literacy program that became a
4 national model, earning him recognition as the recipient of
5 the American Library Trustee Association Literacy Award in
6 1986; and

7 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar committed himself to rural library
8 development and supported the establishment of public library
9 districts to create larger units of library service in the
10 State; and

11 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar pushed forward an effort to construct a
12 new Illinois State Library building, overseeing its
13 construction, which was dedicated on June 20, 1990; and

14 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar assisted in selecting the 35 authors
15 who were given the honor of having their names engraved on the
16 edifice of the new library building, reflecting the diversity
17 of Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar continues to advocate for good
19 government policy in the State and across the nation; for his
20 efforts, he has been inducted as a Laureate of The Lincoln
21 Academy of Illinois and awarded the Order of Lincoln, and he is

1 a resident fellow of the John F. Kennedy School of Government
2 at Harvard University; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Edgar has made vital contributions of service
4 and merit to the State of Illinois and its citizens, and he is
5 highly deserving of the honor to have his achievements noted
6 and remembered by current and future generations; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Rooms 105 and 109
11 of the Illinois State Library at 300 South Second Street in
12 Springfield as the "Jim Edgar Reading Room" that houses the
13 Illinois Authors' Collection in honor of the lasting legacy
14 and impact of former Illinois Governor and Illinois Secretary
15 of State Jim Edgar; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to Jim Edgar and Secretary of State Alexi
18 Giannoulas as an expression of our esteem and respect.