



HR0136

LRB104 12346 ECR 22530 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to recognize Chief John W. Stenson, the  
4 first and only African American Chief of Police for the Peoria  
5 Police Department, on his years of service to his community;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Chief Stenson began working as a patrol officer  
8 with the Peoria Police Department in 1966; he was promoted to  
9 detective in 1971, sergeant in 1973, lieutenant in 1977,  
10 captain in 1983, assistant chief of police in March 1997, and  
11 chief of police in October 1997; he retired from the Peoria  
12 Police Department in April 2004; and

13 WHEREAS, Chief Stenson received an associate's degree in  
14 police science from Illinois Central College in 1972 and a  
15 bachelor's degree in police administration from Bradley  
16 University in 1974; he later worked toward a master's degree  
17 at Sangamon State University, and he continued to attend  
18 education seminars and classes through courses at a number of  
19 institutions, including the University of Illinois, the  
20 Northwest Police Institute, the FBI Academy in Quantico, and  
21 the Kennedy School of Government; and

22 WHEREAS, Chief Stenson has been a contributing member in a

1 number of professional organizations, including the Central  
2 Illinois Association of Law Enforcement Executives, the FBI  
3 Alumni Association, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of  
4 Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the  
5 National Organization for Black Law Enforcement Executives,  
6 the Peoria County Association of Chiefs of Police, and the  
7 Police Executive Research Forum; and

8 WHEREAS, Chief Stenson has completed a great deal of  
9 community service throughout his working career and his  
10 retirement within a variety of organizations, including the  
11 Carver Community Center, the Counseling and Family Services  
12 Board, the Crittenton Care and Counseling Center, the Cultural  
13 Diversity Committee, the Emergency Telephone System Boar, the  
14 Eureka college Board of Trustees, the Family violence  
15 Coordinating Council, the Multi-county Narcotics Enforcement  
16 Group Board, the Peoria Empowerment Committee, the American  
17 Red Cross, the DARE Organization, the Heart of Illinois United  
18 Way Board, the Jail Population Task Force, the Peoria Boys  
19 Club, the Peoria Alternative Charter School Board, the Peoria  
20 Area Community Events Board, the Peoria Housing Authority, the  
21 Peoria Public Schools Facility Analysis Committee, Planned  
22 Parenthood, the Tri-County Urban League, and many more; and

23 WHEREAS, Amidst the adversities and struggles of the  
24 times, Chief Stenson has paved the way for many African

1 Americans in his community and beyond through his hard work,  
2 leadership skills, and tenacity, and he continues to inspire  
3 through his commitment to the mentoring of African American  
4 youth and community involvement; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we recognize Chief John W. Stenson, the first and only African  
8 American Chief of Police for the Peoria Police Department, on  
9 his decades of service and mentorship; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 delivered to Chief Stenson as a symbol of our esteem and  
12 respect.