



HR0712

LRB104 21002 LAW 34885 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Jason Herbster on the
4 occasion of his retirement as executive director of the
5 Crystal Lake Park District after more than 15 years of
6 service; and

7 WHEREAS, The Crystal Lake Park District is a separate unit
8 of local government charged with providing park and recreation
9 services for approximately 50,700 residents; the district
10 includes 42 parks spanning more than 1,400 acres and provides
11 over 1,000 annual program offerings; its facilities include
12 the Nature Center, Main and West Beaches, Colonel Palmer
13 House, Lippold Family Golf Center, Boncosky Softball Complex
14 at Lippold Park, Grand Oaks Recreation/Active Adult Center,
15 the Racket Club, Barlina House Preschool, and numerous picnic
16 shelters, and the district also maintains miles of bike and
17 hiking trails; and

18 WHEREAS, Jason Herbster is a seasoned expert in the field
19 of parks and recreation, possessing more than three decades of
20 experience; prior to joining the Crystal Lake Park District in
21 May 2010, he served the Glenview Park District from June 2001
22 to May 2010, the Schaumburg Park District from June 1998 to
23 June 2001, the Palatine Park District from November 1990 to

1 June 1998, and the Alsip Park District from December 1989 to
2 November 1990; and

3 WHEREAS, During his tenure, Jason Herbster successfully
4 reestablished the Parks Initiative Foundation, revitalizing
5 its mission, visibility, and fundraising efforts to strengthen
6 parks and recreation initiatives; a collaborative and trusted
7 relationship-builder, he has also forged and maintained strong
8 intergovernmental partnerships with the City of Crystal Lake,
9 the Village of Lakewood, local school districts, and the
10 public library, enhancing community connections and shared
11 resources; and

12 WHEREAS, Demonstrating environmental leadership, Jason
13 Herbster secured the Environmental Monarch Pledge and obtained
14 key grant funding, including the grant to update and preserve
15 Main Beach, the Lakewood Meadows Grant, and the Nature Center
16 Grant, advancing sustainability and environmental education;
17 his commitment to organizational excellence was further
18 evidenced by earning an award from the Government Finance
19 Officers Association (GFOA) for outstanding financial
20 reporting, transparency, and accountability; and

21 WHEREAS, Jason Herbster is a highly respected and
22 influential leader known for fostering a positive, engaging,
23 and inclusive workplace culture; recognized as a Distinguished

1 Agency Mentor, he is celebrated for his guidance, mentorship,
2 and ability to inspire professional growth in others; his
3 commitment to relationship-building and community partnership
4 is further demonstrated through his role as an ambassador for
5 the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce and as a board member for
6 the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA),
7 where he contributes to meaningful community impact; and

8 WHEREAS, Jason Herbster is considered a strong listener, a
9 talented motivator, and an influential leader throughout the
10 community, consistently promoting staff morale, teamwork, and
11 a fun, supportive workplace culture; his skills in developing
12 employee engagement and organizational culture contributed to
13 the Crystal Lake Park District receiving the McHenry County
14 Top Workplaces 2024 Reader's Choice Award - Workplaces for
15 Teens; and

16 WHEREAS, Jason Herbster has expressed his intention to
17 retire in April 2026; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we congratulate Jason Herbster on his retirement as executive
21 director of the Crystal Lake Park District after more than 15
22 years of service, and we thank him for his dedication and
23 commitment to the Crystal Lake community and the State of

1 Illinois; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to Jason Herbster as an expression of our esteem and
4 respect.