



HR0961

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to express their profound gratitude and
4 admiration for the Honorable Danny K. Davis as he announces
5 his retirement from the United States House of Representatives
6 after an illustrious career spanning nearly three decades in
7 Congress and over forty-six years in elected office; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis was born on September 6, 1941
9 in Parkdale, Arkansas, the son of sharecroppers, and rose from
10 the cotton fields of the rural south to the halls of power in
11 Washington, D.C., embodying the quintessential American
12 journey of perseverance and purpose; and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis earned his Bachelor of Arts
14 from Arkansas A.M. & N. College, his master's degree from
15 Chicago State University, and his Ph.D. in Public
16 Administration from the Union Institute in Cincinnati, and he
17 holds several honorary doctorate degrees in recognition of his
18 scholarly and humanitarian contributions; and

19 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis, since arriving on the West
20 Side of Chicago in 1961, has served as a tireless advocate for
21 his community, beginning his career as an educator, community
22 organizer, and health administrator before entering the

1 political arena; and

2 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis' career in local government was
3 marked by distinction, serving eleven years as alderman of
4 Chicago's 29th Ward and six years as a member of the Cook
5 County Board of Commissioners, where he earned a reputation as
6 a grassroots progressive and a principled voice for
7 marginalized communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis was first elected to represent
9 the 7th Congressional District of Illinois in 1996 and has
10 been a cornerstone of the Illinois Congressional Delegation,
11 serving as the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means
12 Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support and as a prominent
13 member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Progressive
14 Caucus; and

15 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis' legislative legacy is defined
16 by landmark achievements such as the Second Chance Act, which
17 transformed the landscape of reentry for formerly incarcerated
18 people, the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, the
19 establishment of Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) in
20 higher education, and his critical role in the development of
21 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

22 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis has faced personal tragedy with

1 grace and turned it into public advocacy, notably in his work
2 on gun control and the Congressional Caucus on Black Men and
3 Boys, always striving to ensure that the "hands that picked
4 cotton" would continue to "pick presidents" and shape a more
5 equitable future; and

6 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis has remained deeply connected
7 to his constituents through weekly radio and television
8 programs, advisory task forces, and his faithful service as a
9 deacon at New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church; and

10 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis has a supportive family and has
11 been bolstered by the love of his wife, Vera G. Davis, and
12 their sons, Jonathan and the late Stacey Davis; therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate the Honorable Danny K. Davis on his retirement
17 from the U.S. House of Representatives, commend him for a
18 lifetime of dedicated public service to the City of Chicago,
19 the County of Cook, the State of Illinois, and the United
20 States of America, and wish him continued health and happiness
21 in his well-deserved retirement; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Congressman Davis as a symbol of our deepest
2 respect and enduring esteem.