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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Illinois State Archives Director David Joens on his retirement after 20 years as director and 35 years in state government and public service; and

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WHEREAS, David Joens is the son of Alan I. and Betty H. Joens, the husband of Mona B. Martin, and the father of Benjamin Alan Joseph Joens and is a fifth generation resident of the State of Illinois, who attended Illinois public schools from kindergarten at Pershing Grade School in Joliet to his Ph.D. in Illinois History at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale; and

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WHEREAS, David Joens served two years in the United States Army, was a reporter for the Sun newspaper in Lisle, served as an intern and a press secretary for the Illinois Senate Democratic staff for six years, worked at the University of Illinois at Springfield Legislative Studies Center for four years, and worked on the Illinois Secretary of State's Programs and Policy staff for four years; and

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WHEREAS, David Joens was appointed by Secretary of State Jesse White in 2004 to serve as the Director of the Illinois State Archives, making him the fifth director of the archives

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1 in its 103-year history, following in the footsteps of his  
2 predecessors Margaret Cross Norton, LeRoy DePuy, Ted Cassady,  
3 and John Daly; and

4 WHEREAS, David Joens, during his tenure at the Illinois  
5 State Archives, modernized that office's micrographics  
6 section, increased the capacity of its records center by  
7 one-third, moved its public finding aids from paper to a state  
8 of the art on-line system, added numerous indexes and records  
9 to the archives' website, instituted an intern program that  
10 provided an entry point for young professional archivists to  
11 join the Illinois State Archives, and created the on-line  
12 exhibit, "The 100 Most Valuable Documents at the Illinois  
13 State Archives", which offers a brief history of the state  
14 using primary documents; and

15 WHEREAS, David Joens helped secure more than \$1 million in  
16 grant funding for the Illinois State Archives and its advisory  
17 board and established a now 14-year-old award winning re-grant  
18 program, which uses federal grant money to fund archival  
19 projects at small, underserved Illinois historical museums,  
20 libraries, and archives and provide scholarships and free  
21 classes in archival studies to Illinois archivists; and

22 WHEREAS, David Joens served on numerous boards and  
23 commissions as director of the Illinois State Archives,

1 including both the Downstate and Cook County Local Records  
2 Commissions, as chair of the State Records Commission, as  
3 chair of the Illinois State Flag Commission, as a member of the  
4 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Illinois  
5 Bicentennial Commission, the Route 66 Centennial Commission,  
6 and the Underground Railroad Task Force; and

7 WHEREAS, David Joens was an active member of the National  
8 Council of State Archivists, including serving two terms on  
9 its board of directors, and was an active member in numerous  
10 organizations that promoted Illinois history, including the  
11 Illinois State Historical Society, where he is a Lifetime  
12 Achievement Award recipient, the Old State Capitol Foundation,  
13 the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois State  
14 Genealogical Society, the Illinois Heritage Association, the  
15 Chicago Metro History in Education Center, the Center for  
16 Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield,  
17 and the Chicago Area Archivists; and

18 WHEREAS, David Joens has a deep and abiding love for  
19 Illinois, authoring numerous scholarly journal and popular  
20 history articles about all aspects of Illinois history, two  
21 Almanac of Illinois Politics, and the book, "From Slave to  
22 State Legislator, John W. E. Thomas, Illinois' First African  
23 American Lawmaker"; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate David  
3 Joens, a true son of Illinois, on his retirement after 20 years  
4 as Director of the Illinois State Archives and 35 years of  
5 public service to the people of the State of Illinois; and be  
6 it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to David Joens and his family as a symbol of our  
9 respect and esteem.