



HR0339

LRB102 18622 LAW 26974 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Mark William Eckert on  
4 the occasion of his retirement as mayor of the City of  
5 Belleville; and

6           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert served as alderman for Ward 5 of the  
7 City of Belleville from 1997 to 2004; and

8           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert was appointed mayor of the City of  
9 Belleville on December 20, 2004; he was elected to serve a  
10 four-year term in April 2005; he was reelected to a second term  
11 in April 2009, a third term in April 2013, and a fourth term in  
12 April 2017; and

13           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert was instrumental in the improvement  
14 of several city buildings, including the Belleville Firehouse  
15 #4 in 2009, the Sanitation Department in 2009, the Parks and  
16 Recreation building in 2009, the Wastewater Treatment Plant  
17 expansion in 2013, the Belleville Public Library renovation in  
18 2015, the new Belleville Police Department dedicated in 2016,  
19 and the Belleville City Hall renovations, including ADA and  
20 security improvements, in 2017; and

21           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert led 30 delegates from the City of

1 Belleville to compete for the National Civic League's  
2 All-America City Award in Kansas City in 2011, where  
3 Belleville was one of the ten finalists; and

4 WHEREAS, Mark Eckert served on a number of local  
5 committees and organizations during his tenure, including the  
6 Belle-Scott Committee as honorary chairman, the Belleville  
7 Sister Cities Organization as honorary chairman, the Board of  
8 Directors of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce, the  
9 Lindenwood University Board of Directors, the Belleville  
10 Cultural Enrichment Organization as president, the  
11 Southwestern Illinois Law Enforcement Commission, the  
12 Belleville Exchange Club, Racial Harmony, the Homeless  
13 Backbone Committee, and the Leadership Council Military  
14 Affairs Committee; he also served on the Belleville 200th  
15 Committee in 2014, where he worked tirelessly with staff and  
16 countless volunteers to organize the Bicentennial Weekend  
17 Celebration; and

18 WHEREAS, Mark Eckert served in leadership roles in several  
19 organizations; he belonged to the Board of Directors of the  
20 East-West Gateway Council of Governments from 2013 to 2017; he  
21 served on the Illinois Municipal League Board of Directors  
22 from 2013 to 2021, where he served as president from 2017 until  
23 2018; he served on the Southwestern Illinois Council of  
24 Mayors, where he was president from 2015 to 2017; and

1           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert earned many awards in the course of  
2 his mayoral career, including the Belleville Jaycees  
3 Distinguished Service Award, the Belleville News-Democrat SIUE  
4 Carol Kimmel Community Service Award, the Catholic Social  
5 Service Award, the Scoutmaster Award of Merit, the George  
6 Meany Award, the Belleville Sister Cities Herman Award, the  
7 Racial Harmony Outstanding Community Service Award, the NAACP  
8 Metro East Branch Partners Justice Award, and the SILEC George  
9 A. Lanxon Award; he was also inducted into the BTHS West Hall  
10 of Fame in 2009 and honored by the Metro Area Professional  
11 Organization in 2012; and

12           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert married Rita on April 5, 1986;  
13 together, they have four children, Matthew Joseph (Carly  
14 Miller), Kate Ann (Jacob Kotler), Luke Joseph (Erika), and  
15 Lucy Ann; they also have three grandsons, Jackson, Patrick,  
16 and Noah; and

17           WHEREAS, Mark Eckert is known for his unconditional love  
18 for his family, his strong character, his devout leadership,  
19 and his volunteerism; he is a true public servant who built  
20 relationships and promoted the vision and growth of the City  
21 of Belleville; therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we congratulate Mark William Eckert on the occasion of his  
3 retirement as the mayor of the City of Belleville, recognize  
4 his commitment to the citizens of Belleville, and wish him  
5 many more happy, productive years; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Mark Eckert as an expression of our esteem and  
8 respect.