



HR0621

LRB102 24933 ECR 34186 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Congressman Bobby Lee
4 Rush on his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Rush was born to Cora Lee and Jimmy Lee Rush
7 in Albany, Georgia on November 23, 1946; he graduated from
8 Marshall High School at the age of 17; he served in the U.S.
9 Army from 1963 until he was honorably discharged in 1968; he
10 received his Bachelor of Arts from Roosevelt University in
11 Chicago in 1973; he later obtained his Master of Arts in
12 Political Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago
13 in 1994; he earned his Master of Arts in Theological Studies
14 from the McCormick Theological Seminary in 1998 and became an
15 ordained Baptist minister; and

16 WHEREAS, While in college, Rep. Rush became a political
17 activist and soon devoted himself to Chicago's civil rights
18 movement; he joined the Student Non-Violent Coordinating
19 Committee (SNCC) in 1968 and soon after co-founded the
20 Illinois Black Panther Party; he ran the Panther Party's Free
21 Breakfast for Children program and also organized a free
22 medical clinic, which developed the nation's first mass
23 testing program for sickle cell anemia while simultaneously

1 raising awareness of the disease's impact on African Americans
2 in Chicago; and

3 WHEREAS, Rep. Rush launched his political career when he
4 unsuccessfully ran for alderman of Chicago's Second Ward in
5 1975; he later won that same seat in 1983 and continued to
6 serve as an alderman until 1992; he was elected to Illinois'
7 First Congressional District Seat in the U.S. House of
8 Representatives in 1992; he won consecutive reelections and is
9 currently serving his 15th term in Congress; he ran for Mayor
10 of Chicago in 1999 but was defeated; and

11 WHEREAS, Rep. Rush has served as chair of the Committee on
12 Energy and Commerce and co-chair of the Congressional Biotech
13 Caucus; he has also served on the Subcommittee on Commerce,
14 Trade, and Consumer Protection and the Subcommittee on
15 Telecommunications and the Internet; and

16 WHEREAS, During his time in office, Rep. Rush has served
17 as a member of the U.S. delegation of the North Atlantic
18 Assembly and sponsored many community-based initiatives,
19 including the 2008 passage of the Toy Bill, which banned lead
20 in toys and boosted funding for the Consumer Product Safety
21 Commission, and the 1999 passage of the Urban Asthma Reduction
22 Act; he supported legislation to study postpartum depression
23 and how to support people experiencing it and secured federal

1 funding for infrastructure projects like the 95th Street Red
2 Line Station and upgrades to the interchange of Interstates 57
3 and 294; he notably donned a hoodie on the U.S. House floor to
4 protest the killing of Trayvon Martin in 2012; and

5 WHEREAS, Rep. Rush is the only former member of the Black
6 Panther Party seated in Congress; when he defeated Barack
7 Obama in the race of Illinois' First Congressional District in
8 2000, he became the only person to win an election against the
9 former president; and

10 WHEREAS, Rep. Rush has announced he will retire at the end
11 of this Congressional term; he plans to focus on serving as a
12 pastor at the Beloved Community Church of God in Chicago;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we congratulate Congressman Bobby Lee Rush on his retirement
17 from the U.S. House of Representatives and commend him for his
18 decades of service to the First Congressional District of the
19 State of Illinois; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Rep. Rush as a symbol of our esteem and respect.