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LRB103 40815 LAW 73703 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Jim Pilmer on the  
4 occasion of his retirement as executive director of the Fox  
5 Valley Park District after eight years of service; and

6           WHEREAS, Jim Pilmer was appointed the sixth executive  
7 director in the Fox Valley Park District's then-68-year  
8 history on November 9, 2015, dutifully serving at the helm for  
9 the next eight years while remaining visible, approachable,  
10 accessible, and accountable throughout his tenure until his  
11 retirement on December 31, 2023; and

12           WHEREAS, Under Jim Pilmer's guidance, the Fox Valley Park  
13 District's residents, guests, and visitors benefited from  
14 thoughtful infrastructure and facility development  
15 initiatives, including the creation and unveiling of the Fox  
16 Fitness center in concert with capital renovation to the  
17 Prisco Community Center, the construction and opening of The  
18 Barn at Blackberry Farm and The Wilds at Red Oak Nature Center,  
19 the construction of outdoor pickleball courts at popular parks  
20 on Aurora's east and west sides, the development of six new  
21 parks, the significant redevelopment of Jericho Lake, Simmons,  
22 and Copley I parks, the sale of the district-owned police  
23 station facility in Montgomery, and the inception of the

1 district's Police and Public Safety division into the Cole  
2 Center; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Pilmer was also responsible for administering  
4 insightful financial management and sustainability  
5 initiatives, including the development of the rolling  
6 Five-Year Financial Forecast, the procurement of approximately  
7 \$14 million in federal, state, and local-level grants to fund  
8 programming and initiatives, and the implementation of a  
9 district-wide energy performance contracting improvements  
10 project, encompassing \$2.7 million in energy efficiency  
11 upgrades procured by a low-interest lease repaid through  
12 utility savings over 15 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Jim Pilmer oversaw the Fox Valley Park District's  
14 implementation of several outstanding program and service  
15 enhancement initiatives, including the replacement of  
16 contracted outside services with district-run programming in  
17 core areas to align with the district's swimming, golf,  
18 tennis, and gymnastics programs, the development and growth of  
19 the Information Technology department and initiatives to  
20 provide reliable infrastructure and innovative solutions, the  
21 completion of comprehensive plans and studies to effectively  
22 guide the future of the district, the establishment of a  
23 public art walk at Blackhawk Park with new sculptures produced  
24 by local artists displayed annually, and the development of

1 Resilience, Reimagining Recreation, Recovery, an umbrella  
2 campaign dedicated to phased reopening strategies in the  
3 aftermath of a global pandemic, which included an economic  
4 relief plan for all employees in response to financial  
5 hardships resulting from the pandemic; and

6 WHEREAS, Due to Jim Pilmer's instrumental leadership, the  
7 Fox Valley Park District's residents experienced attentive  
8 community engagement and a number of expansion initiatives,  
9 including the establishment of a five-year partnership with  
10 Troon, LLC to revitalize Orchard Valley Golf Course, which  
11 included Orchards Restaurant and establishing the property as  
12 a premiere destination, significant trail connectivity  
13 improvements, such as the widening and paving of the Illinois  
14 Prairie Path, the acquisition of key riverfront property, the  
15 expansion of territory served by the district through  
16 annexations, totaling 497 acres, and the expansion of  
17 pollinator habitat by more than 50 acres through the  
18 procurement of grant funding; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout his career and while executing his  
20 duties as executive director of the Fox Valley Park District,  
21 Jim Pilmer has continued to champion inclusion and equality  
22 for underserved populations of the community, continually  
23 making his hometown of Aurora proud; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we congratulate Jim Pilmer on his retirement as executive  
4 director of the Fox Valley Park District, and we commend his  
5 exemplary career, his many accomplishments, and his  
6 unquestionable service; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to Jim Pilmer as an expression of our esteem and  
9 respect.