



SR1073

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to congratulate Barbara Byrne Osuch on the occasion of her retirement from the Park Forest Public Library; and

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WHEREAS, Barbara Osuch began serving as library director of the Park Forest Public Library on October 1, 2003; and

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WHEREAS, During Barbara Osuch's administration, the Park Forest Public Library started producing a quarterly newsletter, now an electronic monthly newsletter, to inform patrons about programs and services, and the library expanded its audiovisual collection to include DVDs, CDs, video games, and Playaways, including books in MP3 format; she also implemented placing Little Free Libraries in strategic locations in Park Forest and Olympia Fields for community members to enjoy free books; and

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WHEREAS, Under Barbara Osuch's guidance, the Park Forest Public Library made numerous technological improvements, including becoming a wi-fi hotspot, enhancing internet access by running fiber optic cable to the building, and purchasing laptops in order for the library to offer free computer classes in 2008, and launching a new website to offer a streamlined process and a professional new look in 2008; and

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1 WHEREAS, Amidst Barbara Osuch's leadership, the Park
2 Forest Public Library underwent several building improvements,
3 including repairing the roof, replacing the front doors,
4 adding new landscaping, and improving space planning in 2008;
5 she oversaw a comprehensive renovation of the interior of the
6 library, including adding new desks and outward facing shelves
7 in the children's area, updating bathrooms, and constructing
8 new flooring, which was completed in 2011; she later oversaw
9 the renovation of the library's parking lot in 2017, including
10 the addition of new energy-efficient lights, the opening of
11 the library's drive-up window in 2023, and the completion of
12 the staff office area redesign that same year; and

13 WHEREAS, Barbara Osuch's passion for gardening has
14 resulted in the Park Forest Public Library having won the
15 beautification award from the Village of Park Forest year
16 after year; she created the Butterfly Garden in 2016,
17 dedicating it to the memory of the library patron who made it
18 possible with a sizable donation; and

19 WHEREAS, Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Barbara Osuch
20 ensured that the Park Forest Public Library continued serving
21 the public through the implementation and use of social
22 distancing, remote programs, and curbside pick-up programs;
23 and

1 WHEREAS, Barbara Osuch's sunny disposition and her love of
2 poetry, picture books, and gardening have made the Park Forest
3 Public Library the beautiful place it is today; and

4 WHEREAS, Barbara Osuch will conclude her time as library
5 director on July 1, 2024; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate
8 Barbara Byrne Osuch on her retirement from the Park Forest
9 Public Library, and we wish her the best in all of her future
10 endeavors; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Barbara Osuch as a symbol of our esteem and
13 respect.