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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to recognize Father Matt Foley for his bravery in apprehending two would-be burglars; and

WHEREAS, Father Matt Foley, 41 years old, is the pastor at St. Agnes Church at 2651 South Central Park Avenue in Chicago; he has been a pastor for 15 years; and

WHEREAS, On Wednesday, June 23, 2004, two would-be burglars broke into the St. Agnes Church; these two men proceeded with crowbars and other tools to break open the church's donation box; that donation box is reserved to help the parish and the needy within the parish's community; with no regard for his own safety, Father Foley confronted the two men; one of the thieves, who was armed with a knife, engaged in a physical altercation with Father Foley and then ran away; Father Foley, remembering his rugby days, chased down the criminal and held him until law enforcement officers arrived to place them into custody; and

WHEREAS, Father Foley has once again demonstrated his commitment to the service of others in place of his own safety and well-being; as a man of charity and compassion, Father Foley makes the neighborhood of Chicago known as the Little Village a better place for everyone that lives there; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Father Foley for putting the well-being of others before himself and recognize the bravery it takes for a citizen to apprehend two armed criminals in the process of committing a crime; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Father Matt Foley as a sign of our respect and
3 esteem, and that we encourage all citizens in the State of
4 Illinois to look to Father Foley as a role model and an example
5 of courage and commitment to his community.