



HR0567

LRB095 12591 KXB 37849 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Phil Langley on his induction into the Harness Racing Hall of Fame; and

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WHEREAS, On Sunday, July 1, 2007, in Goshen, N.Y., Phil Langley will be honored for his achievements and contributions in harness racing; and

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WHEREAS, He began his career at Sportsman's Park, where his father, Pete Langley, was one of the founding fathers of one of the nation's foremost meetings, and he went on to become a member of the hierarchy at Maywood Park and Balmoral Park; he was elected president of the United States Trotting Association, governing body of the standardbred sport, in 2003; and he is serving his second term while continuing to work as director of racing at Maywood and Balmoral; and

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WHEREAS, Phil Langley is a graduate of Oak Park High School and Dartmouth; following his graduation he went back to Sportsman's to work as an assistant to racing secretary Stan Bergstein; when his father died he replaced him at the Sportsman's harness meeting in the late 1960s; he stayed at Sportsman's until 1997, when track President Charles Bidwill III, whose family had controlling interest in the track,

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1 decided to discontinue harness racing and make Sportsman's into  
2 a combination thoroughbred/automobile racing venue; Phil  
3 Langley was part of the ownership groups and he transplanted  
4 Sportsman's American-National classic harness races to  
5 Balmoral; and

6 WHEREAS, Balmoral became one of North America's foremost  
7 tracks; Phil Langley was instrumental in inaugurating the World  
8 Trotting Derby at the DuQuoin State Fair and in introducing  
9 Illinois off-track betting in 1987; and

10 WHEREAS, In recent years, Phil Langley has made his mark as  
11 a standardbred owner; he currently is co-owner of two of the  
12 best pacers on the Chicago circuit, Thisbigdogwilfight and  
13 Third Day; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
16 congratulate Phil Langley on his induction into the Harness  
17 Racing Hall of Fame; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to Phil Langley as a symbol of our respect.