



HR1582

LRB096 24743 GRL 44796 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to honor the achievements and
4 remarkable contributions of Illinois residents; and

5 WHEREAS, Gus Lukis, a cobbler from the Chicago neighborhood
6 of Hyde Park, has run a shoe repair shop on 57th Street, Hyde
7 Park Shoe Rebuilders, for 51 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Lukis has earned unending respect from his
9 friends, neighbors, and fellow business owners for his
10 excellent disposition and his sense of family and community;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, During the 5 decades at the business he grew up
13 with and loved so much, Lukis has fixed everything from the
14 backpacks of University of Chicago students to the shoes of
15 Nobel Prize winners; and

16 WHEREAS, Lukis moved from his Chicago birthplace in 1929 to
17 Leonidion, Greece when he was 6 months old; after surviving the
18 horrors of World War II as Leonidion was constantly bombed, he
19 returned to the United States as a young man in 1947; and

20 WHEREAS, At the age of 18, after living briefly in Los

1 Angeles, Lukis returned to Chicago, where he learned to mend
2 shoes at his uncle's shoe repair shop in Hyde Park; and

3 WHEREAS, Shortly after beginning work at his uncle's shop,
4 Gus met his future wife, Connie, with whom he spent 55
5 wonderful years before her death in 2004; together, they raised
6 two sons, Jim and John; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1959, Lukis and his uncle moved their shoe shop
8 to 57th Street; as a testament to his first-rate customer
9 service, his commitment to the business he loves, and the
10 loyalty of his Hyde Park residents, Gus is a neighborhood icon
11 and is familiarly known as the "Mayor of 57th Street";
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 congratulate Gus Lukis on the occasion of his 51 years on 57th
16 Street in Hyde Park and his dedication to the Hyde Park
17 community; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Gus Lukis as a symbol of our respect and esteem.