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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman is retiring from his position as
3 Executive Director of the Illinois High School Association
4 (IHSA) after 25 years in Bloomington, where he led the IHSA as
5 its Executive Director since 2002; and

6 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman is the sixth individual to hold the
7 position of Executive Director in the IHSA's 100-plus year
8 history; and

9 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman has dedicated his life to students
10 in Illinois, having served as a teacher, coach, and principal
11 during stops at Girard High School, Bluffs Junior-Senior High
12 School, Westmer Secondary School, and Monmouth High School
13 before joining the IHSA; and

14 WHEREAS, Under Marty Hickman's leadership, the IHSA
15 expanded its participation opportunities to high school
16 students in Illinois to include State tournaments in boys
17 bowling, competitive cheerleading, competitive dance,
18 journalism, and boys and girls water polo; the IHSA has also
19 remained an innovator, becoming the first state high school
20 association in the country to offer a bass fishing state
21 tournament in 2011, and has become a technological leader in
22 its field, launching the most extensive website of its kind and

1 moving many operations online, which has saved high schools
2 money and coaches and administrators time; and

3 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman has stressed the student in
4 student-athlete, starting the Academic All-State Team to
5 recognize and reward individuals who excel in both academics
6 and extracurricular participation with college scholarships;
7 he also started the IHSA Distinguished Service Award program to
8 recognize the efforts of the volunteers around the State who
9 are vital to the IHSA and its tournaments; and

10 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman has effectively managed the
11 Association's finances, helping to eliminate the entry fees
12 that are employed by many high school associations in the
13 country, while also maintaining a balanced budget that has
14 helped return millions of dollars to high schools in the State
15 during his tenure; and

16 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman represented Illinois on a national
17 level by serving on the Boards of the National Federation of
18 State High School Associations and the National Association of
19 Sports Officials; and

20 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman has served as an active member of
21 many local boards and service clubs, including Kiwanis, Special
22 Olympics Illinois, and the Peoria Riverfront Museum Board; he

1 was also named a "Distinguished Alumnus" by Eastern Illinois
2 University; and

3 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman is a wonderful representation of the
4 quality of education in Illinois, having graduated from New
5 Berlin High School in New Berlin before earning degrees from
6 Eastern Illinois University, the University of Illinois at
7 Springfield, and the University of Illinois at
8 Urbana-Champaign; and

9 WHEREAS, Marty Hickman has been married to his loving wife,
10 Nancy, for more than 30 years; together, they have 2 children,
11 Adam and Alex; 2 daughters-in-law, Lynn and Kelly; and a
12 grandchild, Cole, with another on the way; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 congratulate Marty Hickman on the occasion of his retirement
16 and wish him continued success and happiness in the future; and
17 be it further

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