



HR1339

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to honor our friend and colleague,  
4 Illinois State Representative John D. Anthony, for his service  
5 to the people of the State of Illinois; and

6           WHEREAS, Representative John Anthony was born and raised in  
7 Chicago and is a native of Illinois; he earned a bachelor's  
8 degree at Christian Bible College and Seminary in Independence,  
9 Missouri; and

10           WHEREAS, With an eye toward front-line public safety,  
11 Representative John Anthony became a law enforcement officer in  
12 the Champaign Police Department in 2005; in 2008, he became a  
13 deputy in the Kendall County Sheriff's Office; during his time  
14 in those departments, he was mentioned numerous times in news  
15 accounts and sheriff's records for examples of fearless public  
16 service in circumstances of threatened, actual, and even  
17 imminent personal danger; and

18           WHEREAS, As a Deputy Sheriff, Representative John Anthony  
19 received the Ervin H. Warren "Cop of the Future" award for  
20 community leadership; as a figure of growing importance in his  
21 communities, he made friends throughout his district and was  
22 appointed to serve as State Representative, representing the

1 75th District in north-central Illinois, in August of 2013; and

2 WHEREAS, Upon taking office in the 98th General Assembly,  
3 Representative John Anthony became the first African-American  
4 member of the Illinois House Republican Caucus to serve since  
5 1983; and

6 WHEREAS, Upon taking office, Representative John Anthony  
7 became the first State Representative of Puerto Rican heritage  
8 to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives; and

9 WHEREAS, Complex challenges faced by the 75th District in  
10 Representative John Anthony's time of legislative leadership  
11 have centered on its status as an area that is partly inside  
12 and partly outside the greater Chicago metropolitan area during  
13 the current period of economic life that began in 2008-2009,  
14 with a large number of young families, growing schools,  
15 transportation frustrations, and the overall atmosphere of  
16 life in a world of half-built subdivisions; during this period,  
17 Representative Anthony stood steadfast in his determination  
18 for policies that would restore economic growth to Illinois and  
19 job opportunities to his constituents; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2014, Representative John Anthony accepted an  
21 invitation to join the Edgar Fellows Program, a leadership  
22 program overseen by the Institute of Government and Public

1 Affairs at the University of Illinois as a focal point for the  
2 nurturance and continued training of current and future leaders  
3 of this State; and

4 WHEREAS, Utilizing his personal experience in law  
5 enforcement, Representative John Anthony concentrated his  
6 lawmaking work on questions of public safety and law  
7 enforcement, working tirelessly to make Illinois a safer place  
8 to live and raise a family; and

9 WHEREAS, The commitment of Representative John Anthony and  
10 his wife, Deborah, to Illinois families is shown by their  
11 founding leadership of the YARN Foundation, an education and  
12 scholarship program for potentially challenged young  
13 Illinoisans; and

14 WHEREAS, As a further demonstration of his commitment to  
15 family-oriented law enforcement, Representative John Anthony  
16 became the chief House Republican co-sponsor of the bipartisan  
17 House Bill 1, a path breaking 2015 measure to fight against the  
18 growing scourge of heroin addiction and addictions to other  
19 opiate chemicals, including chemicals found in prescription  
20 medications, which has since been closely examined by many  
21 other states; House Bill 1 became law as Public Act 99-480; and

22 WHEREAS, In one key feature of House Bill 1, police

1 officers and other first responders have been given the right  
2 to carry and immediately administer Naloxone to persons in  
3 imminent danger of death from an opiate overdose; this feature  
4 of the law reflects Representative John Anthony's own  
5 experience as a street police officer and his confidence that  
6 Illinois' finest men and women will have the strength of  
7 purpose to use this power wisely; other features of House Bill  
8 1 overseen by Representative Anthony as lawmaking chief  
9 co-sponsor include a prescription drug drop-off program,  
10 expanded availability of drug courts in district courtrooms  
11 throughout Illinois, and improved data collection on heroin and  
12 other drug offenses; and

13 WHEREAS, After serving in the Illinois House of  
14 Representatives from August of 2013 until June of 2016,  
15 Representative John Anthony has decided that it is time for him  
16 to move on to new challenges in public safety; and

17 WHEREAS, Although the people of the 75th District will miss  
18 Representative Anthony's courage and leadership, he is looking  
19 forward to spending more time with his wife, Deborah, and their  
20 children, Jada, John, Kirsten, and Kylie; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
23 honor and thank our friend and colleague, Illinois State

1 Representative John D. Anthony, for his service to the people  
2 of the State of Illinois and wish him both new challenges and  
3 more time with those close to him in his new life with the  
4 Illinois Department of Corrections; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we congratulate Representative John Anthony  
6 for his ability to work with lawmakers of both political  
7 parties; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to Representative John D. Anthony and his family.