



HR0703

LRB103 40260 ECR 72241 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to commend Deputy John Forlenza and Police K9 Dax for their honorable service and dedication to their community, the State as a whole, and the nation; and

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WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax, a German Shepard, was born on March 4, 2014 near Spokane, Washington; and

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WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax's breeder told the TOPS kennel and the police K9 training center that he was a special dog to be placed with someone who was a good fit; and

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WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax and Lake County Sheriff's Deputy John Forlenza were matched as a team on April 20, 2015 and graduated from the TOPS kennel police K9 program on June 12, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax seized millions of dollars, hundreds of kilos of illegal drugs, dozens of firearms discarded by offenders, and dozens of vehicles; and

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WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax has received numerous recognitions and awards, including recognition from the Illinois House of Representatives in 2016, a Lake County Board Special

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1 Recognition in 2019, a Certificate of Recognition from the  
2 Illinois State Senate in 2022, the ASIS International-Illinois  
3 North Shore Chapter Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award  
4 in 2017, a Chicago Crime Commission Paws of Distinction in  
5 2017, the K9's of Valor Foundation K9 of the Year in 2018, the  
6 100 Club of Chicago Valor Award in 2019, the American Humane  
7 Hero Dog-Law Enforcement in 2019, the Italian American Police  
8 Association Officer of the Year in 2019, a Lake County  
9 Sheriff's Commendation Award in 2022, the Lake County  
10 Sheriff's Office Sheriff Award for Valor in 2022, an Illinois  
11 Law Enforcement Medal of Honor in 2023, and the German Shepard  
12 Dog Club of the Year Hero Dog Award in 2023; and

13 WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax competed in several competitions  
14 with the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) and  
15 in national and regional trials across the country for  
16 tracking, article searches, narcotics, suspect searches, and  
17 protection, winning six USPCA Championships and earning two  
18 Tracking Exceptional Certificates; and

19 WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax is known across the nation due to  
20 his appearances on numerous local and national news stations,  
21 including Fox Nation Hero Dogs, Hallmark Channel American  
22 Humane's Hero Dog, Hallmark Channel Home and Family Show, NBC  
23 Access Daily, NBC Today Show, A&E Network America's Top Dog  
24 Competition, and ESPN Dynamic K9 Duos; he was featured in

1 People Magazine and made many appearances at local schools and  
2 police K9 demonstrations to demonstrate police K9 skills and  
3 teach the public about the police profession; and

4 WHEREAS, Police K9 Dax was injured in his neck and spine in  
5 the line of duty apprehending a repeat felon who was fleeing  
6 officers, forcing his retirement; and

7 WHEREAS, Following Police K9 Dax's injury and diagnosis of  
8 intervertebral disc disease, Deputy John Forlenza submitted  
9 Police K9 Dax's official retirement request to Lake County  
10 Sheriff John D. Idleburg, and his retirement was celebrated on  
11 April 10, 2024; and

12 WHEREAS, Due to the extent of Police K9 Dax's injuries,  
13 the difficult decision was made to end his suffering on April  
14 12, 2024; and

15 WHEREAS, Deputy John Forlenza and Police K9 Dax were a  
16 dynamic duo, partners, and best friends, who together saved  
17 many lives and protected the residents of Lake County;  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we commend Deputy John Forlenza and Police K9 Dax for their

1 honorable service and dedication to their community, the State  
2 as a whole, and the nation; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 presented to Lake County Sheriff John Idleburg and Deputy John  
5 Forlenza as a token of our great esteem and respect.