



HR0987

LRB103 43735 MST 77146 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Illinois State Archives
4 Director David Joens on his retirement after 20 years as
5 director and 35 years in state government and public service;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, David Joens is the son of Alan I. and Betty H.
8 Joens, the husband of Mona B. Martin, and the father of
9 Benjamin Alan Joseph Joens and is a fifth generation resident
10 of the State of Illinois, who attended Illinois public schools
11 from kindergarten at Pershing Grade School in Joliet to his
12 Ph.D. in Illinois History at Southern Illinois University in
13 Carbondale; and

14 WHEREAS, David Joens served two years in the United States
15 Army, was a reporter for the Sun newspaper in Lisle, served as
16 an intern and a press secretary for the Illinois Senate
17 Democratic staff for six years, worked at the University of
18 Illinois at Springfield Legislative Studies Center for four
19 years, and worked on the Illinois Secretary of State's
20 Programs and Policy staff for four years; and

21 WHEREAS, David Joens was appointed by Secretary of State
22 Jesse White in 2004 to serve as the Director of the Illinois

1 State Archives, making him the fifth director of the archives
2 in its 103-year history, following in the footsteps of his
3 predecessors Margaret Cross Norton, LeRoy DePuy, Ted Cassady,
4 and John Daly; and

5 WHEREAS, David Joens, during his tenure at the Illinois
6 State Archives, modernized that office's micrographics
7 section, increased the capacity of its records center by
8 one-third, moved its public finding aids from paper to a state
9 of the art on-line system, added numerous indexes and records
10 to the archives' website, instituted an intern program that
11 provided an entry point for young professional archivists to
12 join the Illinois State Archives, and created the on-line
13 exhibit, "The 100 Most Valuable Documents at the Illinois
14 State Archives", which offers a brief history of the state
15 using primary documents; and

16 WHEREAS, David Joens helped secure more than \$1 million in
17 grant funding for the Illinois State Archives and its advisory
18 board and established a now 14-year-old award winning re-grant
19 program, which uses federal grant money to fund archival
20 projects at small, underserved Illinois historical museums,
21 libraries, and archives and provide scholarships and free
22 classes in archival studies to Illinois archivists; and

23 WHEREAS, David Joens served on numerous boards and

1 commissions as director of the Illinois State Archives,
2 including both the Downstate and Cook County Local Records
3 Commissions, as chair of the State Records Commission, as
4 chair of the Illinois State Flag Commission, as a member of the
5 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, the Illinois
6 Bicentennial Commission, the Route 66 Centennial Commission,
7 and the Underground Railroad Task Force; and

8 WHEREAS, David Joens was an active member of the National
9 Council of State Archivists, including serving two terms on
10 its board of directors, and was an active member in numerous
11 organizations that promoted Illinois history, including the
12 Illinois State Historical Society, where he is a Lifetime
13 Achievement Award recipient, the Old State Capitol Foundation,
14 the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois State
15 Genealogical Society, the Illinois Heritage Association, the
16 Chicago Metro History in Education Center, the Center for
17 Lincoln Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield,
18 and the Chicago Area Archivists; and

19 WHEREAS, David Joens has a deep and abiding love for
20 Illinois, authoring numerous scholarly journal and popular
21 history articles about all aspects of Illinois history, two
22 Almanac of Illinois Politics, and the book, "From Slave to
23 State Legislator, John W. E. Thomas, Illinois' First African
24 American Lawmaker"; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we congratulate David Joens, a true son of Illinois, on his
4 retirement after 20 years as Director of the Illinois State
5 Archives and 35 years of public service to the people of the
6 State of Illinois; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to David Joens and his family as a symbol of our
9 respect and esteem.