

## 1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are honored to recognize the career of one of  
4 their own; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw is retiring  
6 from her duties in the Illinois House of Representatives; she  
7 has represented the Naperville area in the Illinois House of  
8 Representatives for 10 consecutive terms, nearly 20 years;  
9 the 41st District, which she serves, includes nearly all of  
10 DuPage County's Naperville Township and a part of Lisle  
11 Township as well, thereby including most of the city of  
12 Naperville; and

13 WHEREAS, Currently Representative Cowlshaw is the  
14 ranking Republican member of the House Elementary and  
15 Secondary Education Committee and a member of the House  
16 Public Utilities Committee, the House Higher Education  
17 Appropriations Committee, the Mental Health and Patient Abuse  
18 Committee, the Electric Utility Deregulation Committee, and  
19 the Select Committee on Aging; she is also a member of the  
20 Telecommunications Task Force of the American Legislative  
21 Exchange Council, the chairman of the Women's Agenda Task  
22 Force, which was created by the House Republican Policy  
23 Committee, and recently served as chairman of the Education  
24 Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures  
25 and as a commissioner from Illinois on the Education  
26 Commission of States; she is also a member of the National  
27 Education Goals Panel created by the National Governor's  
28 Association and has served as past chairman of the NCSL  
29 Education Committee; and

30 WHEREAS, Representative Cowlshaw is a member of numerous  
31 organizations, including the National Conference of State  
32 Legislatures, the National Republican Legislators

1 Association, the American Legislative Exchange Council, the  
2 University of Illinois Alumni Association, the National  
3 Federation of Republican Women, the Naperville Heritage  
4 Society, the Naperville Humane Society, the Conservation  
5 Foundation of DuPage County, the League of Women Voters of  
6 Naperville, the Fort Payne Chapter of the Daughters of the  
7 American Revolution, and the Descendents of the Mayflower;  
8 she is the Republican Precinct Committeeman of Precinct 28,  
9 Naperville Township, DuPage County, the founding member and  
10 former president of the Naperville Republican Women's Club,  
11 and a board member of the Lisle School District 202  
12 Foundation; she serves on the Advisory Board of Family  
13 Shelter Service and the Board of Governors of the Lincoln  
14 Series for Excellence in Public Service, the Advisory Board  
15 of St. Patrick's Residence, the DuPage Senior Citizens  
16 Council, the DuKane Valley Council, the Board of Directors of  
17 the Corridor Partnership for Excellence in Education, and the  
18 Federal Relations Network of the National School Boards  
19 Association; she sponsored legislation that created and now  
20 serves on the Board of the Illinois Community and Residential  
21 Services Authority; in addition, she is a longtime member of  
22 Community United Methodist Church in Naperville; and

23 WHEREAS, Her service in the Illinois legislature itself  
24 has been something of a third career; Representative  
25 Cowlshaw served on the Board of School District 203 from  
26 1972 to 1983 and was also a staffer for the Naperville Sun  
27 for several years; she has authored a regular column,  
28 "Prairie House Report", in the nature of a communique from  
29 her present position and was the author of a book, catalogued  
30 in the Library of Congress, about the history of the  
31 Naperville Municipal Band; and

32 WHEREAS, As a legislator, Representative Cowlshaw has  
33 received many honors, resulting in no small part from her

1 dedication to the advancement of education in Illinois; she  
2 was a key legislative leader in establishing the Illinois  
3 Mathematics and Science Academy in 1985 and has been a  
4 steadfast supporter of the school every since; she has been a  
5 strong advocate for education and has championed innovative  
6 approaches to increase student learning, increase teacher  
7 quality, and expand access to teaching in mathematics and  
8 science; she has also led efforts to improve funding for  
9 gifted education throughout the State of Illinois and has  
10 raised awareness of the need and value of gifted education  
11 programs; and

12 WHEREAS, Representative Cowlshaw has also been an active  
13 member of the National Education Goals Panel since 1997 and  
14 was recently honored by the National Conference of State  
15 Legislatures for her steadfast and exemplary support for  
16 educational excellence, access, and equity on behalf of  
17 students in Illinois and across the nation; she has  
18 championed education reform efforts and has served on several  
19 local and national education committees; in addition, she has  
20 crafted much of the Chicago public school reform legislation;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Representative Cowlshaw was named the Illinois  
23 Legislator of the Year in 1994, won four Golden Apple Awards  
24 from the Illinois Association of School Boards, and has been  
25 the recipient of more than two dozen other awards from State  
26 and local governmental agencies and civic groups, including  
27 the State Board of Education, the Illinois Community College  
28 Trustees Association, and the Illinois Association of  
29 Regional Superintendents of Schools; in 1997, Naperville  
30 School District 204 gave her a singular honor by naming a new  
31 school for her; she was also the winner of a first place  
32 annual award for investigative reporting from the Illinois  
33 Press Association; and

1           WHEREAS, In March 2002, Representative Cowlshaw was  
2 honored by the Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness for her  
3 steadfast legislative efforts which have significantly  
4 improved the educational rights of homeless students  
5 nationwide; she was presented a bronze statue of "Charlie",  
6 an image that has become synonymous with homeless children in  
7 Illinois; and

8           WHEREAS, Representative Cowlshaw is a journalism  
9 graduate of the University of Illinois, and has also been  
10 awarded two honorary doctorates from Northwestern University  
11 and Michigan State University; she and her husband, Wayne,  
12 have lived in Naperville for more than 40 years; they are the  
13 proud parents of three adult children, Beth (husband, David)  
14 McDaniel, John (wife, Jane) Cowlshaw, and Paula (husband,  
15 Andrew) Rader and the grandparents of eight grandchildren,  
16 Jacob McDaniel, Zachary, Maxwell, Alexandria, and Rachel  
17 Cowlshaw and Emily, Elizabeth, and John Paul Rader; and

18           WHEREAS, A violinist throughout her adult life,  
19 Representative Cowlshaw has performed in concert with a  
20 group of her young constituents in the rotunda of the State  
21 Capitol in Springfield; and

22           WHEREAS, During her tenure in the Illinois General  
23 Assembly, Representative Cowlshaw's dedication, innovation,  
24 and commitment to education has set a precedent for future  
25 legislators; she has not only impressed the members on both  
26 sides of the aisle in the Illinois House of Representatives,  
27 but also members of legislatures across the nation;  
28 therefore, be it

29           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
30 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
31 we honor the career of Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw as  
32 she retires from her duties in the Illinois House of

1 Representatives and we wish her well in all of her future  
2 endeavors; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to Representative Mary Lou Cowlshaw as an  
5 expression of our esteem.