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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. *16*

BY METCALF, CONNORS, BLODGETT, BODDICKER, BRUNKHORST,  
BURNETT, CARROLL, CATALDO, CHAPMAN, CHIODO, CHURCHILL,  
CORBETT, DOTZLER, FALLON, FORD, GIPP, GRUNDBERG,  
HOLVECK, HUSEMAN, JACOBS, KINZER, KOENIGS, KREIMAN,  
LAMBERTI, LORD, MERTZ, MURPHY, MYERS, O'BRIEN,  
OSTERHAUS, REYNOLDS-KNIGHT, RICHARDSON, SCHRADER,  
SIEGRIST, TAYLOR, TYRRELL, VANDE HOEF, VAN MAANEN,  
WEIDMAN, and WHITEAD

*Sponsor added Parent 4-10-97*

A Resolution honoring Des Moines Mayor Arthur Davis for  
his many contributions to the city of Des Moines and  
the state of Iowa.

WHEREAS, Mr. Arthur Davis, while growing up, in his  
own words, in "kind of a conservative Jewish home" in  
Sioux City, learned early from his mother that good  
deeds will be noticed, should not be bragged about,  
and will provide a barometer by which others may judge  
a person's accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis has since that time accrued an  
impressive list of accomplishments, including  
membership on the Des Moines Human Rights Commission  
from 1960 to 1963; membership on the Des Moines school  
board from 1963 to 1969, including serving as  
president of the board for two years; service as the  
president of Planned Parenthood of Iowa in 1976;  
service as president of the Greater Des Moines Chamber  
of Commerce Federation in 1979; fulfillment of an  
appointment by President Jimmy Carter in 1980 to the  
President's Holocaust Memorial Council; and service as  
the chairman of the Iowa Democratic Party from 1985 to

*HR 16*

1 1987; and

2 WHEREAS, during these years, Mr. Davis was building  
3 one of Des Moines' largest, most influential, and  
4 prestigious law firms, now known as the firm of Davis,  
5 Brown, Koehn, Shors & Roberts, P.C., but which has  
6 most often been described through the years as "the  
7 Davis firm"; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis' passion for community-building  
9 was evidenced by his decision to run for mayor of Des  
10 Moines in 1995; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis brought civility, elegance, and  
12 a hearty, baritone voice to the office of mayor; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis' fellow mayors in the Golden  
14 Circle of Des Moines have expressed their respect for  
15 him; applauded his concern for and efforts to  
16 strengthen the relationship between Des Moines and the  
17 suburban communities; praised his negotiating skills,  
18 gentlemanly manner, integrity, and vision; and noted  
19 the improvements and tough decisions Mr. Davis made in  
20 his brief tenure in the mayor's office; and

21 WHEREAS, after learning of the recurrence of a  
22 life-threatening illness in the summer of 1996, Mr.  
23 Davis planned to serve out his term, but with much  
24 regret announced on March 30, 1997, that the illness  
25 forced him to make his decision to resign as mayor;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, although his time as mayor has been  
28 limited in duration, Mr. Davis will be remembered for  
29 his vigorous efforts to improve education, to  
30 implement a helpful police presence in the community,

1 and to establish responsible budgetary practices; NOW

2 THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

4 That Mr. Arthur Davis be honored for his many  
5 accomplishments, his deep commitment to community  
6 service, and for the benefits he brought to the city  
7 of Des Moines and all the citizens of Iowa; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
9 Representatives wishes Mayor Davis strength, courage,  
10 and its hope that the comfort and attention offered by  
11 his family and many friends will support and sustain  
12 him; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the  
14 House of Representatives send copies of this  
15 Resolution to Mayor Arthur Davis and his family and to  
16 the Des Moines City Council.

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