



Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Tom Dirks, the band director from Center Grove High School, Greenwood, Indiana, on the occasion of his retirement.

Foley

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on

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HC 1053/DI 84+



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION honoring Tom Dirks, the band director from Center Grove High School, Greenwood, Indiana, on the occasion of his retirement.

Whereas, Tom Dirks never planned to become a band director;

Whereas, While enrolled at Purdue University, Tom discovered that engineering was not the profession for him, so he transferred to Indiana State University at Terre Haute, Indiana, and began pursuing a music degree;

Whereas, Tom earned his music degree from Indiana State University and returned five years later to earn his master's degree;

Whereas, After graduation, Tom began teaching in Patriot, Indiana, where, under his guidance, the membership of the band increased from seven to 25;

Whereas, Tom's next teaching positions were in Columbus and Danville;

Whereas, In 1975, Tom joined the faculty of Center Grove High School as the new band director;

Whereas, The 1970s were a time of change for Indiana high school marching bands, and Tom prepared his band to change with the times;



Whereas, Tom introduced new marching techniques that included the elimination of the baton twirlers and the institution of a rifle and flag corps;

Whereas, Under the tutelage of Tom Dirks, the Center Grove Marching Trojans received state, local, and national recognition, including the prestigious Sudler Shield Award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation;

Whereas, In 1987 and 1988 the Trojans were runner-up in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Class A state band championships, and in 1989, 1991, and 1999 they were the state champions;

Whereas, Just as the marching band prospered under Tom's guidance, so did other musical groups. The middle school and high schools bands received superior ratings at the ISSMA state concert band contest, the symphonic band received top honors annually, the marching percussion unit has been undefeated in competition for the last four years, and the winter guard has been the Indiana high school state champion for 15 of the past 18 years and has won national championships three times;

Whereas, After more than a quarter of a century, Tom Dirks will retire from Center Grove High School at the end of the 2000-2001 school year;

Whereas, Although he will no longer be at school every day, Tom will still be active in the music community where he hopes to help establish a community foundation to fund future band activities;

Whereas, Tom has devoted countless hours creating a program that allows band members to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally and to have a good time while participating; and

Whereas, Tom Dirks is a remarkable man who gives freely of his time to help the children of our state become better adults: Therefore,



*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,
the Senate concurring:*

- 1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly wishes to thank
2 Tom Dirks for the thousands of hours he has given the children of the
3 state of Indiana and the pleasure he has given all of us with his
4 wonderful music and to wish him well in his future endeavors.
5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
6 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Tom Dirks and his
7 wife, Connie, superintendent Al Long, and principal James Mervilde.

