

Whereas, from time to time the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in order to recognize the achievements of an outstanding Missourian who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the law enforcement profession; and

Whereas, Ron Doerge of Racine, Missouri, will retire from his position as Newton County Sheriff on December 31, 2004, following twenty-six years of dedicated service to Newton County; and

Whereas, formerly a Reserve Deputy, Field Deputy, and Chief Deputy, Sheriff Doerge has distinguished himself as the first four-term Sheriff in Newton County, giving him the distinction of being the longest serving law enforcement officer in Newton County history; and

Whereas, recognized and accredited for his accomplishments in the modernization of the Newton County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Doerge established the Investigations Unit, the Narcotics Division, and the Crimes Against Children's Unit; proposed the tax initiative that built the Newton County Jail and Sheriff's Department; became the first sheriff in Missouri to install less than lethal weapons in every deputy's car; and started the first Neighborhood Watch Program in Newton County; and

Whereas, Sheriff Doerge, a graduate of the Police Academy at Missouri Southern State University, was appointed in 1996 by John Ashcroft to testify on law enforcement issues before the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas, the past recipient of the American Legion Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the state of Missouri, Sheriff Doerge has served on many boards, including the Economic Security of Southwest Missouri, the Missouri Southern State University Advisory Board, the founding board of the Children's Center where he was the longest serving member, and the Four County Southwest Missouri Drug Task Force, of which he founded and has Chaired since its conception; and

Whereas, Sheriff Doerge has been blessed with the love and support of a wonderful family whose members include his wife, Linda; one daughter, Shelly Blotter; and two grandchildren, Paige and Garrett Blotter:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously with the citizens of Newton County in extending our most hearty congratulations to Sheriff Doerge as he retires from the Newton County Sheriff's Department, and in further wishing him the long, enjoyable, and fruitful retirement he so richly deserves; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Sheriff Ron Doerge, as a measure of our esteem for him.

Offered by _____
Representative Kevin Wilson
District No. 130

Representative Marilyn Ruestman
District No. 131

Representative Ronald F. Richard
District No. 129

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4104, adopted September 16, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker