



HR0444

LRB101 12717 ALS 61451 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Gary Birschbach on his 50 years in business; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Gary Birschbach is an owner operator of three McDonald's restaurants in Decatur; he started working for McDonald's as a junior in high school in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in November of 1969; after working in several levels of management for an owner/operator in Wisconsin, he purchased his first restaurant in Piedmont, Missouri in 1995; he had an opportunity to buy two restaurants in Decatur in 2000; his franchise grew to include seven restaurants in 2007; he sold four of the restaurants in 2009; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, In his first store, Gary Birschbach tested and implemented an ice cream product for then McDonald's CEO Jack Greenberg; this item was released in the U.S. as the McFlurry three years later; he has held several social functions at the Decatur McDonald's, so the public can interact with social leaders, including "Coffee with a Cop" and "Coffee with the Council"; and

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

WHEREAS, Since 2005, Gary Birschbach's stores have awarded over \$175,000 in tuition assistance and assisted nine employees

22

1 in enrolling in online high school programs through the
2 McDonald's Archways program; and

3 WHEREAS, Gary Birschbach serves on several boards,
4 including the Central Illinois Ronald McDonald House Charities
5 (RMHC) Executive Board, where he was instrumental in the
6 remodel of the Springfield RMHC House and the Peoria RMHC House
7 that opens in January 2020; he is a member of the St. Mary's
8 Hospital Board of Directors, the Decatur Chamber of Commerce,
9 where he is currently serving as president, and the WDCR
10 Catholic Radio Executive Board; he is a Knights of Columbus 4th
11 Degree Member; he previously served on the Pastoral Council of
12 the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Decatur, on the
13 Richland Community College Foundation Board, and as a board
14 member and past president of the Easter Seals, where he was
15 honored with the Seal of Excellence Award in 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, Gary Birschbach sponsors many events, including
17 the District 61 New Teacher Breakfast, the Annual Gold Wings
18 Motorcycle Charity Ride, the Annual Decatur Area High School
19 Basketball Turkey Tournament, and the Summer Reading Programs
20 at seven local libraries in Decatur, Forsyth, Argenta,
21 Warrensburg, Oreana, Mt. Zion, and Cerro Gordo; he partners
22 with Decatur dentist Dr. Brown to provide dental care to
23 low-income children; and

1 WHEREAS, Gary Birschbach has been married to Laura, whom he
2 met at McDonald's, for over 40 years; they have five children
3 and 13 grandchildren; his passions include the McDonald's
4 business, the Ronald McDonald House Charities, and the Green
5 Bay Packers; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Gary Birschbach on his 50 years in business and
9 commend his volunteer efforts; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Gary Birschbach as an expression of our esteem and
12 respect.