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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Students of Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School in Gibson City were inspired to participate in the 2005-2006 Project Ignition program, largely because of a tragic accident involving twin brothers Steve and Greg Arends; and

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WHEREAS, Project Ignition, sponsored by State Farm and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council, gives high school students and their teachers a unique opportunity to work together in addressing the critical issues of teen driver safety and how it affects them, their community, and the world around them; and

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WHEREAS, The GCMS project team, including 43 students and 2 teachers, produced Safe Driving DVDs, original soundtracks, and PowerPoint presentations that were shown school-wide and throughout the community, all centered around the theme "License to Live - Shattered Dreams"; and

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WHEREAS, The team encouraged participation from around the community, including poster contests for elementary and middle school students, presentations by emergency room nurses from the local hospital, writing contests and seat belt incentives, and meetings with the faculty and city officials; and

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WHEREAS, As a result of the students' and teachers' untiring work, seat belt usage among students at GCMS High School increased, while the number of speeding tickets and automobile accidents decreased; and

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WHEREAS, The State of Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles, under the jurisdiction of Secretary of State Jesse White, plans to play the Project Ignition Team's Safe Driving DVD at every facility; and

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1 WHEREAS, The GCMS Project Ignition Team was the only
2 Illinois team selected to compete for the national prize,
3 winning a \$5,000 stipend from State Farm to travel to the
4 National Youth Leadership Council's 17th Annual National
5 Service-Learning Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to
6 present their "License to Live - Shattered Dreams" Program
7 before an international audience and a renowned panel of
8 judges; and

9 WHEREAS, On Friday, March 24, 2006, the Gibson
10 City-Melvin-Sibley High School Project Ignition Team was
11 announced as the national BEST OF THE BEST, winning an
12 additional grant of \$10,000 to be used in continuing the driver
13 safety project; and

14 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the
15 State of Illinois proudly recognize the dedication and hard
16 work of this outstanding team and commend all those involved in
17 making this project a success and in making a positive
18 difference in our communities and across the State, especially
19 teachers Judy Weber-Jones and KiLee Widwell; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 we congratulate the Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley Project Ignition
23 Team on winning the national Best of the Best award; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
26 presented to each member and teacher involved in the GCMS
27 Project Ignition Team as an expression of our esteem.