



HR0012

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Jo Wenzel, fourth grade teacher at Pearl City Elementary School, on being named the Agricultural Teacher of the Year by the Stephenson County Farm Bureau and Illinois Agricultural Teacher of the Year by the State Farm Bureau; and

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WHEREAS, In June of 2009, she will represent Illinois in the national competition in St. Louis; if she wins there, she will represent the nation; she does not teach agriculture as a separate subject, but incorporates it into the social studies curriculum of her fourth grade class; and

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WHEREAS, She also includes agriculture as part of her approach to teaching literature, math, and economics; she uses the journals of Lewis and Clark to help her students understand the national expansion west and the historical effects of American agriculture; the students keep their own journals as they follow along, tracking the Corps of Discovery; and

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WHEREAS, Her students study renewable resources, longitude and latitude, soil, water, and the effects of too much fertilizer; they make charts recording the loss of food production jobs and the subsequent rise of service jobs; they

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1 travel to Grand Detour to see where John Deere made his first
2 steel plow, harvest crop samples brought in from the fields by
3 the teacher, map climate and weather patterns, enter poster
4 contests, compile a reference book containing agriculture
5 facts about all 50 states, and complete a research project on
6 the ways in which a selected American Indian tribe used natural
7 resources for its food, shelter, and clothing; and

8 WHEREAS, Jo Wenzel has been teaching Pearl City fourth
9 graders for 20 years; she has been intimately involved with
10 farming throughout her life, growing up on a farm in Henry,
11 where her family raised soybeans and corn; she, along with her
12 husband, Brian, operate a small farm in Kent, where they raised
13 three children, Benjamin, Jessica, and Seth, and where they
14 continue to grow corn and soybeans; and

15 WHEREAS, Jo Wenzel is proud of her students; she will
16 reward the children this spring when she gives them the prize
17 she won for them, courtesy of the Stephenson County Farm
18 Bureau, a field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry in
19 Chicago; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
22 congratulate Jo Wenzel on her achievements and thank her for
23 her continued dedication to education; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Jo Wenzel as a symbol of our respect and esteem.