



HR0896

LRB104 21687 MST 37260 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate the Deer Creek-Mackinaw
4 High School's girl's basketball team, the Lady Chiefs, on
5 winning the 2025-26 Illinois High School Association (IHSA)
6 Class 1A State Championship; and

7 WHEREAS, The Lady Chiefs claimed their school's first ever
8 state title by defeating Mount Pulaski High School 49 to 34 on
9 March 7, 2026 at the CEFCU Arena on the campus of Illinois
10 State University in Normal; and

11 WHEREAS, The Lady Chiefs defeated Heyworth High School 48
12 to 23 in the sectional championship, Wethersfield High School
13 (Kewanee) 45 to 43 in the supersectional, and Rockford
14 Christian High School 48 to 35 in the semifinal on their path
15 to the championship game; and

16 WHEREAS, The Lady Chiefs' 2025-26 season marked their
17 first ever appearance in the state tournament, which also saw
18 them ranked number one in the state for most of the season and
19 compile the winningest season in school history with 34 wins
20 and their highest winning percentage of 92%; and

21 WHEREAS, The Lady Chiefs' senior Dalia DeJesus scored 16

1 points, had 13 rebounds in the state final game, and finished
2 the season as the school's all-time leading scorer and
3 rebounder with 2,522 career points and 1,376 career rebounds;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Lady Chiefs are led by Head Coach Joni
6 Nightingale and Assistant Coaches Todd Brownlee, Terrance
7 Durbin, and Rylee Tompkins; and

8 WHEREAS, The Lady Chiefs are freshman Ameilia Dunbar,
9 sophomores Rudy Gilbert, Kenlea Brown, Ellie Weir, and Anna
10 Schmidgall, juniors Riley Durbin and Kate Schmidgall, and
11 seniors Jaelyn Nunley and Dalia DeJesus; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we congratulate the Deer Creek-Mackinaw High School's girl's
15 basketball team, the Lady Chiefs, on winning the 2025-26
16 Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 1A State
17 Championship, and we wish them many more successful seasons to
18 come; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 presented to the Lady Chiefs' players and coaches as a symbol
21 of our respect and esteem.