



SR0559

LRB104 16886 MST 30297 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate the Western DuPage Special Recreation Association
4 (WDSRA) on the 50th anniversary of its founding; and

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WHEREAS, The WDSRA was founded on September 20, 1976 by
6 the Glen Ellyn, Naperville, West Chicago, and Wheaton Park
7 Districts to provide individuals with disabilities
8 opportunities for recreation and leisure; and

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WHEREAS, The WDSRA began with two programs, a summer day
camp and a bowling program, and has grown to offer more than
700 programs annually, enriching the lives of children, teens,
and adults with special needs; and

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WHEREAS, The WDSRA was joined by the Bloomingdale,
Warrenville, Winfield, Roselle, and Carol Stream Park
Districts between 1986 and 1996, broadening the association's
impact across western DuPage County and bringing the total of
park districts served to nine; and

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WHEREAS, The WDSRA has been recognized nationally, earning
the Gold Medal for Excellence in Programming from the National
Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the National
Sporting Goods Association in 1979 and again in 1993; and

1 WHEREAS, The WDSRA became the first special recreation
2 association to earn the Distinguished Accredited Agency
3 recognition by the Illinois Association of Park Districts
4 (IAPD) and the Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA)
5 in 2002, reflecting its commitment to the highest standards of
6 service, leadership, and inclusion, and it continues to
7 maintain this distinguished accreditation; and

8 WHEREAS, The WDSRA launched the Rec & Roll adult day
9 program in 2005, which has since expanded to seven locations,
10 offering meaningful day experiences that build independence,
11 friendships, and community engagement; and

12 WHEREAS, The WDSRA continues to grow its year-round
13 programming, adding new and innovative opportunities in
14 athletics, arts, camps, and social programs for individuals as
15 young as three years old to seniors; and

16 WHEREAS, The WDSRA continues to respond to the needs and
17 interests of participants and families, creating new ways to
18 learn, connect, and have fun together; and

19 WHEREAS, The WDSRA also leads the way in inclusion
20 services, ensuring that individuals with special needs can
21 participate in regular park district programs when desired,

1 offering support at no extra cost and promoting a community
2 where everyone belongs; and

3 WHEREAS, The WDSRA has lived its mission to "enrich lives,
4 connect communities, and create fun through inclusive
5 recreational opportunities" for 50 years and continues to
6 inspire "a world of opportunities, belonging, and individuals
7 reaching their full potential"; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate the
10 Western DuPage Special Recreation Association on the 50th
11 anniversary of its founding, and we wish it many more
12 wonderful years; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the WDSRA as a symbol of our respect and esteem.