



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Ms. Joanne Spata has been named a recipient of the  
3 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award given  
4 by the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans (JCCIA); and

5           WHEREAS, The JCCIA's Joseph Cardinal Bernardin  
6 Humanitarian of the Year Award is presented annually to those  
7 whose lives exemplify the virtues of caring, humanity, and good  
8 will that were the hallmark of Cardinal Bernardin's tenure as  
9 Archbishop of Chicago; and

10           WHEREAS, Ms. Spata has been a familiar face in the  
11 Italian-American community for the past 25 years and has  
12 donated thousands of hours to community service; she has  
13 assisted with the planning and execution of the Columbus Day  
14 Parade, the Italian Market on the Daley Plaza, Christmas Around  
15 the World at the Field Museum, Villa Day, Festa di Tutti Santi  
16 (which she founded), countless St. Joseph Tables, and the  
17 former Festa Italiana when it was held on Navy Pier; and

18           WHEREAS, Ms. Spata broke the barrier by being the first  
19 woman elected President of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian  
20 Americans Congress in 2003, after the JCCIA had been in  
21 existence for 50 years; she is also a past President of the  
22 Women's Division of the JCCIA, past President of the Young  
23 Adult Division of the JCCIA, and past President of the Italian  
24 Singles' Club of Chicago; she was not only the youngest  
25 President of the Villa Scalabrini home for the Aged Volunteers,  
26 but the first to preside over both their Men's League and  
27 Ladies' Auxiliary; and

28           WHEREAS, During her presidency of the JCCIA Congress, she  
29 received numerous awards and honors for her accomplishments  
30 from Mayor Richard Daley, Cook County Treasurer Marie Pappas,  
31 Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown, and President of the

1 Cook County Board of Commissioners William Stroger, Jr.; she  
2 has been recognized through proclamations issued in both the  
3 Illinois House of Representatives and the Senate for her  
4 achievements and dedication; she has also been listed in the  
5 Congressional Records for her involvement and community  
6 support; and

7 WHEREAS, She is a proud past recipient of the prestigious  
8 David Award, "with great expectations in the field of  
9 fraternalism", which was presented to her by the Itlo-American  
10 National Union, and The Silent Benefactor Award, presented by  
11 the Board of Directors of the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, She is a past two time Chairperson of the Italian  
14 Heritage Ball and Cotillion, past Chairperson of the JCCIA  
15 Women's Division Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show, the  
16 John Fischetti Scholarship, and more than a dozen other events  
17 benefiting the Italian-American Community, many of which she  
18 continues to participate in today; over the years she has been  
19 a member and whole-hearted supporter of the Human Relations  
20 Committee of the JCCIA and the Italian Cultural Center; she is  
21 a past board member of Casa Italia and an active Board member  
22 of the Sicilian American Cultural Association; and

23 WHEREAS, She was the Executive Director of The Shrine of  
24 Our Lady of Pompeii, the oldest continuing Italian Catholic  
25 Church in the City of Chicago, from 1994 to 1999, when it was  
26 first declared a Shrine and helped to raise more than \$2.2  
27 million above their normal income during her tenure there;  
28 although she is currently the Business Manager for St. John  
29 Brebeuf Parish, she still actively oversees the  
30 Italian-American Community's Columbus Day kick-off celebration  
31 of the Eucharist at the Shrine each year; she also receives  
32 on-air credit from all three of the major television stations,  
33 which broadcast the Columbus Day Parade, for her production of

1 the script, which is used by not only all the on-air talent,  
2 but by the reviewing stand commentators as well; therefore, be  
3 it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we congratulate Ms. Joanne Spata on being a recipient of the  
7 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award given  
8 by the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans; and be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Ms. Spata as an expression of our esteem.