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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to honor milestones in the lives of citizens of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Cydney Fields, Principal of William H. Ray Elementary School in Hyde Park, Illinois, has made the decision to retire on June 30, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Cydney Fields began teaching for the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in 1974 and her exceptional empathy for children with special needs was clear from the beginning of her career; she administered the CPS program for Autistic children with exemplary skill but missed the warmth of a school community and interaction with a wide variety of children; she found a professional home at the William H. Ray School in March of 1990 when she was selected principal; and

WHEREAS, The Ray community won her heart by virtue of the great degree of parent and community involvement in the school, and she won the hearts of the principal selection committee because she understood the need to challenge and include every child, because she recognized the importance of recess and because she was willing to admit to her need to read the occasional junky novel; and

1           WHEREAS, During her time as principal she oversaw the  
2           razing of the thirty year old "temporary" annex and the  
3           construction of a new annex carefully planned to serve a  
4           contemporary community school, with a library fit for reading  
5           and technology, handicapped accessible, and a special  
6           conference room for all of Ray's active committees; she has  
7           been troubled by the rise in the importance of standardized  
8           tests but resisted this trend by using them to measure  
9           progress, not set goals; together with the school staff and  
10          supportive parents, she has started a pre-kindergarten program  
11          hailed by the New York Times as "paradise", as well as Spanish  
12          language classes, and an after-school program; and

13          WHEREAS, Under Cydney Fields' leadership, Ray has become  
14          the model inclusion school and set the bar for other schools to  
15          meet; Ray has bucked the selective enrollment trend by offering  
16          parents a school where every child can flourish from the most  
17          intellectually advanced to special needs children and  
18          including those who fall in between those categories; with her  
19          guidance, Ray's wonderful teachers have established a creative  
20          learning environment serving a diverse community with dazzling  
21          results; and

22          WHEREAS, Cydney Fields plans to travel and pursue other  
23          interests, including basket weaving, upon her retirement; she

1 also plans to help new principals as a consultant; therefore,  
2 be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
5 congratulate Cydney Fields on her retirement from William H.  
6 Ray Elementary School and wish her continued success in the  
7 future; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to Principal Cydney Fields as a sign of our  
10 affection, our gratitude, and our respect.