



HR1205

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Deanna Witzel on  
4 the occasion of being named as the Danville 2008 AMBUCS First  
5 Citizen; and

6           WHEREAS, The AMBUCS national service club is dedicated to  
7 the creation of opportunities for independence for people with  
8 disabilities, especially children; every year, the Danville  
9 chapter of AMBUCS gives its First Citizen award to a local  
10 person who has contributed significantly to their community,  
11 either personally or professionally; and

12           WHEREAS, Deanna Witzel and her husband, Don Witzel, are  
13 co-owners of two McDonald's franchises in the City of Danville,  
14 one franchise in the City of Hoopeston, one franchise in the  
15 Village of Oakwood, and one franchise in the City of  
16 Georgetown; and

17           WHEREAS, Deanna Witzel was selected from 10 candidates to  
18 be the 2008 AMBUCS First Citizen; she and her husband have  
19 donated much of their time and effort to helping children in  
20 need; together, through the Ronald McDonald Children's  
21 Charities, they have helped return tens of thousands of dollars  
22 to projects in their community, including more than \$50,000 for

1 AMBUCS playgrounds at Winter and Lincoln Parks and a new  
2 "Sprayground" at Garfield Park in Danville, nearly \$50,000 for  
3 in-school, anti-drug programs run by the Fellowship of  
4 Christian Athletes, more than \$13,000 for youth-sized exercise  
5 equipment at the Danville Family YMCA, and more than \$10,000  
6 for professional "child-friendly" murals in the Danville  
7 hospital's emergency room and pediatrics unit; and

8 WHEREAS, Deanna Witzel has also helped organize numerous  
9 community events, such as McPrincipal's Night and McPack the  
10 Place, which have raised money for Danville, Hoopeston,  
11 Oakwood, and Georgetown-Ridge Farm schools; she has organized  
12 restaurant-based campaigns that have benefited youth  
13 organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big  
14 Sisters, local cancer efforts, and independent fundraising  
15 efforts for children in need; as president of the Danville High  
16 School's choral music boosters, she has helped raise \$25,000  
17 for the show choir and for the jazz band's trip to New York  
18 City, as well as serving in numerous other capacities with the  
19 group; and

20 WHEREAS, Deanna Witzel and her husband have been major  
21 sponsors for events such as the Festival of Trees and Festival  
22 of Tees, which have raised money for various hospital  
23 foundation programs; they personally donated \$25,000 to help  
24 kick-start a community-based fundraiser for amenities at

1 Danville High School's new track; they have also given away  
2 free meal coupons as rewards for students, orange drinks to  
3 non-profit organizations, and cups of coffee to kids at the  
4 Festival of Trees' Polar Express event; and

5 WHEREAS, Deanna Witzel and her husband have two children,  
6 Rob, an Indiana University freshman, and Katie, a Danville High  
7 School senior; and

8 WHEREAS, Deanna Witzel will receive the AMBUCS First  
9 Citizen award at a banquet in her honor on April 30, 2008 at  
10 the Days Inn in Danville; and

11 WHEREAS, Deanna and Don Witzel's tireless volunteerism and  
12 energetic approach to helping children in need serves as a  
13 model of hard work, integrity, and dedication for the people of  
14 the State of Illinois; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 congratulate Deanna Witzel on the occasion of being named as  
18 the Danville 2008 AMBUCS First Citizen and wish her continued  
19 success and happiness in the future; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to Deanna Witzel as a symbol of our esteem and

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1 respect.