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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On Wednesday, September 16, 2009, The Illinois Retail Merchants Association will honor Uncle Dan's the Great Outdoor Store, Chicago, as its 2009 Illinois Retailer of the Year; the annual award is given to a retailer who is not only successful in business, but committed to community and civic affairs and respected by others in the industry; and

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WHEREAS, Chicago-based outdoors retailer Uncle Dan's meets that criteria through its stellar customer service, commitment to the retail industry, dedication to the environment and generosity to its communities; the business started in 1972 when two teenagers took over their uncle's dry goods store and opened a 900-square-foot Army-Navy store located on Bryn Mawr Avenue in Chicago's Hollywood Park neighborhood; and

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WHEREAS, Now known as Uncle Dan's the Great Outdoor Store, the business has grown to four locations and has become one of the Midwest's leaders in adventure gear and apparel; the company specializes in outdoor equipment and clothing for any adventure, selling everything from apparel and camping equipment to bicycle accessories and specialty gear for dogs; it also operates an interactive web site that includes outdoor resources as well as an e-club offering members email notices when new merchandise arrives and advance notice of store sales;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The stores are staffed by a diverse group of
3 employees who share a common love of the great outdoors;
4 service is the central focus of the business, and it is shown
5 not only to customers, but the community around it; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 1972, Uncle Dan's has supported various
7 community groups in myriad ways; the majority of its donations
8 go to the communities in which its employees live and work and
9 to organizations that strive to improve the environment; the
10 company looks for programs promoting health and wellness,
11 youth, the arts, and the environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Uncle Dan's has been an active member of the
13 Illinois Retail Merchants Association for 29 years, supporting
14 work and activities beneficial to the retail industry
15 throughout the state of Illinois; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 congratulate the owners and staff of Uncle Dan's on receiving
19 the 2009 Illinois Retailer of the Year award; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the owners of Uncle Dan's as a symbol of our

1 respect and esteem.