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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are pleased to congratulate Mary Werderitch on the occasion of her retirement from the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance; and

WHEREAS, Mary Werderitch began her career as Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mary Werderitch has worked tireless for 20 years to make "Camp I Am Me" one of the top children's camps in the nation; she has enhanced the lives of more than 1,000 children who otherwise would not have been able to experience the opportunity to be comfortable being themselves in such a fun and loving environment; and

WHEREAS, Mary Werderitch's leadership has inspired many former campers to become camp counselors and advocates for burn prevention once they reach adulthood; and

WHEREAS, Through Mary Werderitch's efforts as Chair of the State Fair Committee for the Illinois Fire Services Association, she was able to help educate thousands of families who came to the Fair every summer on the dangers of fireworks and the importance of fire safety; and

1           WHEREAS, Thousands of children were able to learn more  
2 about fire safety every October through the Newspapers in  
3 Education Program that Mary Werderitch helped to develop in  
4 partnership with the Chicago Sun-Times; and

5           WHEREAS, During Mary Werderitch's tenure, various burn  
6 prevention programs were initiated, such as "Bath Buddy  
7 Thermometers", the Farm/Rural/Wildlife Fire Safety Guide, "A  
8 Sparkler Story DVD", and the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention  
9 Program; and

10           WHEREAS, In preparation for the 4th of July holiday, Mary  
11 Werderitch often worked with the City of Chicago to help  
12 educate the public on the dangers of sparklers (which are  
13 banned in the City of Chicago) and fireworks (which are banned  
14 statewide); therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we congratulate Mary Werderitch on the occasion of her  
18 retirement from the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance, thank her  
19 for her service and commitment to burn survivors and her work  
20 on burn prevention, and wish her the best of luck in her future  
21 endeavors; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Mary Werderitch as a symbol of our respect and  
3 esteem.