



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois are pleased to congratulate the central  
4 Illinois chapter of the National Association of Women Business  
5 Owners on the occasion of its 25th anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1979, it was difficult to get funding or  
7 respect as a female business owner; because of these  
8 challenges, the central Illinois chapter of the National  
9 Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) was formed in  
10 Peoria; founder Charleen Bowe and other women combed through  
11 the city directory for women business owners to invite to the  
12 introductory meeting on September 19, 1979; the meeting was  
13 packed; for many years, Peoria was the smallest city to have a  
14 chapter of NAWBO; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, more than 10.1 million firms are at least  
16 50% owned by a woman or women; between 1997 and 2002, the  
17 number of women-owned employer firms grew by 37%, four times  
18 the rate of all employer firms; and

19 WHEREAS, While the tide has changed in business in 25  
20 years, there is still much work for NAWBO to do; the  
21 organization offers a wealth of resources for women in  
22 business, from networking and conferences to workshops and  
23 seminars geared specifically to women; over the years, NAWBO  
24 has served as a national lobbying force to bring women more  
25 equal access to credit, since one of the biggest obstacles for  
26 women interested in becoming business owners is finding  
27 financing; and

28 WHEREAS, On Wednesday, April 21, 2004, the central Illinois  
29 chapter of NAWBO celebrated the organization's 25th  
30 anniversary; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           congratulate the central Illinois chapter of the National  
4           Association of Women Business Owners on the occasion of its  
5           25th anniversary; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7           presented to the central Illinois chapter of the National  
8           Association of Women Business Owners as an expression of our  
9           respect and esteem and with our many thanks for the  
10          contributions the group has made to the advancement of women in  
11          business in our State.