



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives are
3 pleased to honor the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc.,
4 Hornets Youth Sled Hockey Team, based in Bensenville; and

5 WHEREAS, Sled hockey is an ice sport that allows
6 individuals with disabilities to enjoy hockey; it is very
7 similar to "stand-up hockey" in terms of concept and rules; the
8 main difference is that instead of standing up to skate,
9 participants sit on their skates using an adaptive device known
10 as a sled, which is affixed with two skate blades and a runner
11 in the front to form a tripod; the other main difference is
12 that in sled hockey participants use two shortened hockey
13 sticks with a blade on one end and a pick (similar to the end of
14 a figure skate) on the other end, which enables them to propel
15 themselves across the ice much like in cross country skiing;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Hornets' mission is to provide any youngsters
18 17 years old or younger with a physical disability the
19 opportunity, at no cost, to learn, enjoy and have fun playing
20 the game of hockey; the program is funded in part through a
21 grant to AHAI from Chicago Blackhawk Charities, a fund of the
22 McCormick Tribune Foundation; and

23 WHEREAS, The Hornets program was started in 2004 by a group
24 of experienced and dedicated individuals within the Illinois
25 hockey community to provide an opportunity for everyBODY to
26 participate in this great sport; the ultimate goal is to get as
27 many players who are interested on the ice this year; and

28 WHEREAS, The Hornets practice every Wednesday night at the
29 Edge Ice Arena in Bensenville; the team attended the first
30 annual Disabled Hockey Festival in Detroit, Michigan, from
31 February 18-20, 2005; all four disabled disciplines were

1 represented: sled hockey, special hockey, amputee hockey, and
2 hearing impaired hockey; and

3 WHEREAS, The members of the Hornets are Michael McCarthy,
4 Brad Pawelkiewicz, Nick Trcjjanowicz, Brianna Fuentes, Pearl
5 Gannon, Peter Bleka, Dan Suero, Kyle Picchetti, Sean Grady,
6 Kelsey Haase, Brendan Meyers, Nathanael Rymsza, Erica
7 Mitchell, Ronen Young, Sandra Nehmzow, Matt Trilo, Steven Fako,
8 and John Wrubel; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we honor the members of the Bensenville Hornets Youth Sled
12 Hockey Team for their courage and determination to participate
13 in a sport, when many would tell them they could not; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the Hornets Sled Hockey Team as an expression of
17 our sincere respect and esteem and with best wishes for the
18 continued success of the organization.