



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Tom and Sonna Cain of Tolono started their Friends of Santa program to create holiday memories for area children who might not otherwise have Christmas; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, The Cains have been providing happy memories for struggling families since they started the Friends of Santa operation out of their home in 1986; and

6

7

8

WHEREAS, This year will mark the 19th year that the Cains have devoted their own holiday season to making sure that all children in their community have presents to open on Christmas morning; and

9

10

11

12

WHEREAS, The operation has grown over the years; Friends of Santa now serves children in Tolono plus four additional communities; Mrs. Cain estimates that she has a team of about 200 volunteers helping with donations, shopping, wrapping, and sorting the gifts; groups from the Masonic Lodge in Tolono and the Pesotum and Tolono United Methodist churches have been especially helpful with the fundraising portion; the motorhome that serves as Santa's sleigh is donated by a friend, and Mr. Cain plays Santa; and

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

WHEREAS, In 1986, the Cains delivered Christmas presents to 56 children; in 2001, the Friends of Santa program delivered presents to 48 families, with a total of 120 children; while every child still receives toys, gifts of clothing and coats are provided to those families who need them; and

22

23

24

25

26

WHEREAS, The Cains are the parents of two boys; Mr. Cain has a real estate business, helps teach as a graduate assistant for Dale Carnegie Training, and is the local area's Chapter President of the Muscular Dystrophy Association; and

27

28

29

1           WHEREAS, The need for Friends of Santa never goes away, but  
2 neither do the memories that have been created over the years;  
3 therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we express our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Tom  
7 and Sonna Cain for their Friends of Santa program and applaud  
8 their efforts, and those of the volunteers, in ensuring the  
9 continuation of this heartwarming event; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Tom and Sonna Cain as an expression of our utmost  
12 admiration.