



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives congratulate Warren Special Recreation  
4 Association in Warren Township on the occasion of its 25th  
5 anniversary; and

6 WHEREAS, The Association is comprised of four member  
7 districts represented by board members Suzanne Simpson, Warren  
8 Township; Maureen Jekot, Wildwood Park District; Linda  
9 Anderson, Grandwood Park District; and Lisa Sheppard, Gurnee  
10 Park District; Brenda Zeck is the Executive Director; and

11 WHEREAS, The Association began operations in 1981 and was  
12 formally known as the Special Recreation Association of  
13 Warren-Zion (SRAWZ) and housed at Viking Park in Gurnee; in  
14 1983, with the cooperation of the member districts and  
15 volunteers from the Gagewood Lions club, a 5000-square-foot  
16 therapeutic playground was built, the first of its kind in the  
17 Northeast Illinois region; the Association's name changed to  
18 Warren Special Recreation Association (WSRA) on May 1, 1985;  
19 the Association moved to the loft of a remodeled barn on the  
20 80-acre grounds of the Warren Township Center; in 1997 with the  
21 generous donation of \$100,000 from the Gagewood Lions Club,  
22 WSRA moved into the remodeled farm house at Warren Township  
23 Center; and

24 WHEREAS, The Association provides community recreation  
25 services to individuals with disabilities who reside within  
26 Warren Township, which encompasses seven municipalities, 36  
27 square miles, and has a population of 65,000; and

28 WHEREAS, Warren Special Recreation Association has  
29 experienced significant growth in terms of enrollment,  
30 recreation programs, and services; one of the challenges in  
31 meeting the needs of the community comes in controlling costs

1 while expanding services; the Association has successfully  
2 maintained a balanced budget for 25 years while seeing  
3 enrollment climb from 15 participants in 1981 to more than 100  
4 in the current year; the Association currently has four  
5 full-time Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists and 60  
6 part-time staff; and

7 WHEREAS, The Association continues to focus its efforts on  
8 assisting individuals with disabilities and their families;  
9 WSRA staff stay abreast of the latest techniques in  
10 implementing quality recreation programs in an enjoyable and  
11 safe environment; WSRA programming changes with the needs of  
12 its participants and their families; in the past year there  
13 were 170 programs offered; a few of these program offerings  
14 include camps, special events, weekly programs, socials, after  
15 school club, and Special Olympics; and

16 WHEREAS, WSRA continues to partner and work  
17 collaboratively with its member districts, other special  
18 recreation associations, the Special Education District of  
19 Lake County, local school districts, and community  
20 organizations; and

21 WHEREAS, While the Association has accumulated awards and  
22 acknowledgements during the past 25 years for excellent  
23 programs, safety records, brochures, staff, and participant  
24 achievements, there is still much to accomplish in the future;  
25 the Association has had community and member district support  
26 over the past 25 years; therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
28 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
29 we congratulate Warren Special Recreation Association for 25  
30 years of excellence and dedication; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Warren Special Recreation Association as an  
2 expression of our esteem.