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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Martin J. "Mike" and Patricia Blunt Koldyke have  
3 made it their life-long mission to raise the quality of  
4 teaching and learning in Chicago; and

5           WHEREAS, After graduating from Purdue University and  
6 serving as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Counter  
7 Intelligence Corps, Mike Koldyke founded the Frontenac  
8 Company, a Chicago-based private equity firm, in 1971, and  
9 served as its Chairman until his retirement; and

10           WHEREAS, A graduate of Vassar College, Pat Koldyke began  
11 her career at Harper's Bazaar Magazine in New York before  
12 moving to Chicago with her husband in 1961; and

13           WHEREAS, The Koldykes were inspired while watching the  
14 Academy Awards on TV in the mid-80s to create a similar awards  
15 program for teachers to recognize excellence in teaching and  
16 the contributions of teachers in building a stronger,  
17 better-educated society; and

18           WHEREAS, Every year since 1986, The Golden Apple Foundation  
19 has chosen 10 outstanding teachers to receive this prestigious  
20 award; and

1           WHEREAS, Recipients of the Golden Apple Award become  
2 lifetime members of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators,  
3 which conceives, develops, and supports programs for teachers  
4 to make them more effective in the classroom; and

5           WHEREAS, For 30 years, Golden Apple has recognized gifted  
6 teachers and provided them with the preparation and  
7 professional development they need for immediate and lasting  
8 success in the classroom, with a special emphasis on  
9 disadvantaged schools; and

10           WHEREAS, The Golden Apple Scholars program has prepared  
11 more than 1,000 teachers who are raising student achievement in  
12 some of Illinois' most challenging teaching environments; and

13           WHEREAS, The exceptional leadership and public service  
14 provided by the Koldykes continues to transform teaching and  
15 learning in the Chicago region and beyond, particularly for  
16 underprivileged students; and

17           WHEREAS, Mike Koldyke serves as Chairman Emeritus of the  
18 Golden Apple Foundation, and he and Pat continue to serve on  
19 the board of the Golden Apple Foundation; and

20           WHEREAS, In 1992, Mike Koldyke was appointed by both Mayor  
21 Richard M. Daley and Governor Jim Edgar as Chair of the Chicago

1 School Finance Authority, and by President Clinton to serve on  
2 the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence  
3 for Hispanic Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, After reading about Native Americans being passed  
5 over by college recruiters, Mike Koldyke was instrumental in  
6 developing a program at the New Mexico Highlands University to  
7 improve the recruitment and mentoring of Native Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Since 2005, the Koldykes have sponsored Chicago  
9 Public School children, many of whom have never been out of  
10 Chicago, for a trip to Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in  
11 Colorado and a cowboy experience at their ranch; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1986, the Koldykes established the Chicago  
13 Council on Global Affairs' Patricia Blunt Koldyke Fellowship in  
14 Social Entrepreneurship to recognize emerging leaders who are  
15 transforming society through innovative solutions to pressing  
16 global challenges; and

17 WHEREAS, Pat Koldyke has also served on the boards of  
18 Children's Memorial Hospital, the Erikson Institute, the  
19 Northwestern Memorial Foundation, the Chicago Council on  
20 Global Affairs, the Brain Research Foundation, and the Persons  
21 with Disabilities Fund at the Chicago Community Trust; Mike  
22 Koldyke has served on the boards of After School Matters,

1 Golden Apple Foundation of New Mexico, WTTW Communications,  
2 Inc., Chicago Public Education Fund, Big Shoulders Fund, The  
3 Economic Club of Chicago, and others; he has been a trustee of  
4 Northwestern University, Ravinia, The Brookings Institution,  
5 Choate Rosemary Hall, Joffrey Ballet, and Common Cause;  
6 therefore, be it

7       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
8 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
9 Pat and Mike Koldyke, on the 30th Anniversary of the Golden  
10 Apple Foundation, are recognized for providing the passion,  
11 leadership, and vision of the Golden Apple Foundation as one  
12 dedicated to transforming teaching and learning in the Chicago  
13 region and throughout all of Illinois; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That Pat and Mike Koldyke are commended for  
15 developing the Golden Apple Foundation's legacy of focus on  
16 preparing resilient and successful new teachers for the  
17 profession of education through the Golden Apple Scholars of  
18 Illinois Program; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That Pat and Mike Koldyke are commended for their  
20 inspired belief that excellent teachers are critical to a  
21 student's success, especially with regard to students from  
22 schools of need; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That Pat and Mike Koldyke are recognized for  
2 their bold commitment to education in the State of Illinois,  
3 through the new growth trajectory of the Golden Apple  
4 Foundation, which aspires to double the annual cohort of Golden  
5 Apple Scholars in Illinois by 2018; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to Pat and Mike Koldyke as an expression of our  
8 esteem and respect.