



HR0537

LRB103 35651 LAW 65726 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to commend Shirley Chu of Galesburg for
4 acting as a lifeline in her community by providing free meals
5 to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

6 WHEREAS, Shirley Chu owns and operates Tres Café in
7 Galesburg, through which she has given out nearly 20,000 free
8 meals since the start of the pandemic; and

9 WHEREAS, Shirley Chu initially gave out free meals to
10 first responders, but as other community organizations asked
11 to collaborate with her in the thick of the pandemic, she
12 expanded her free meal donation program to local youth groups,
13 mail carriers, senior centers, and food pantries; and

14 WHEREAS, Shirley Chu was nominated for the WQAD News 8 and
15 Ascentra Credit Union's Pay It Forward, an uplifting series
16 documenting stories of what happens when someone steps up at
17 the right time to make someone else's life a little easier, and
18 she received \$300 in thanks for her service to her community
19 and her customers throughout the pandemic; and

20 WHEREAS, Shirley Chu and Tres Café also received the
21 Illinois Fraternal Order of Police's Blue and Gold Award,

1 which is presented to organizations or individuals not in law
2 enforcement for outstanding support to police officers, for
3 organizing a fundraiser that raised almost \$18,000 on behalf
4 of the family of fallen Knox County Sheriff's Deputy Nicholas
5 Weist; and

6 WHEREAS, Shirley Chu, originally from the Philippines,
7 often encountered food insecurity while growing up there;
8 while she understands that having one meal for one day is not
9 comparable to not having meals for seven days, her own
10 experience with hunger gave her hope that her free meal
11 donation program could change other people's lives for the
12 better, even during times of great struggle such as the
13 pandemic; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we commend Shirley Chu for her commitment to bettering the
17 lives of those in her Galesburg community through her free
18 meal donation program during the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Shirley Chu as an expression of our esteem and
22 respect.