



Legislation Text

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HONORING NANCY JOSEPH FOR RECEIVING A BEST OF THE BEST OUTSTANDING CITIZEN VOLUNTEER AWARD FROM THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF PARK DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2023, Nancy Joseph was honored with a Best of the Best Award from the Illinois Association of Park Districts during its annual gala, receiving the Outstanding Citizen Volunteer Award for her service as a Site Steward at Sand Ridge Nature Center in south Cook County where she has been volunteering since 2013, dedicating over 1,700 hours of service to the Forest Preserves in the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Sand Ridge Nature Center is surrounded by globally rare dune and swale topography which includes 308-acres of marsh, sand prairie, oak savanna, and woodland. Nancy helps care for the site, which includes pockets of remnant-quality vegetation, by hosting large-scale volunteer habitat restoration events, as well as maintaining the interpretive native gardens and bioswales; and

WHEREAS, Nancy has developed strong collaborations with other organizations working in the area including Friends of the Forest Preserves, the Field Museum, and Calumet Is My Backyard (CIMBY) to bring people and nature together including hosting stewardship days for Chicago Public Schools high school students; and

WHEREAS, Nancy is exceptionally organized and thoughtful in leading stewardship days and goes above and beyond to make sure volunteers are safe and comfortable, especially if it is their first time volunteering, and she encourages community building among volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Nancy is a cherished member of the environmental community and her leadership is vital to the restoration and maintenance of rare and important habitats in the Calumet region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Toni Preckwinkle, President and the Forest Preserves of Cook County Board of Commissioners congratulate Nancy Joseph for receiving an Illinois Association of Park Districts Best of the Best Award and thank her for her dedication and commitment to the mission of the Forest Preserves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to Nancy Joseph as a token of appreciation for her service to the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the residents of Cook County.