



HR0945

LRB103 43289 LAW 76577 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Desmond A. Roberts on the
4 occasion of his 25th anniversary as president of Advantage
5 Dealer Group; and

6 WHEREAS, Desmond Roberts, a graduate of City University of
7 New York, is a highly respected automotive industry leader,
8 entrepreneur, and advocate for diversity with more than 30
9 years of experience; he began his career in the banking and
10 finance industry before transitioning to the automotive
11 sector; he entered the General Motors Minority Dealer
12 Development Academy in 1986, which led to the purchase of his
13 first dealership in 1989; he later sold that dealership,
14 gaining invaluable experience under the mentorship of the late
15 Bob Ross, before acquiring and expanding his dealership
16 portfolio; and

17 WHEREAS, Desmond Roberts, as president of Advantage Dealer
18 Group, oversees a portfolio of successful dealerships in the
19 Chicago area, including Advantage Chevrolet of Hodgkins,
20 Advantage Chevrolet of Bolingbrook, Advantage Chevrolet of
21 Bridgeview, Advantage Toyota of River Oaks, and Advantage
22 Acura of Naperville; since acquiring Advantage Chevrolet of
23 Hodgkins in 1999, he has built a reputation for excellence in

1 customer service, business growth, and community involvement,
2 with his commitment to ethics in business practices earning
3 Advantage Chevrolet of Bolingbrook the Torch Award for
4 Marketplace Ethics from the Better Business Bureau in 2015;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Desmond Roberts, as an advocate for minority
7 representation in the automotive industry, has dedicated much
8 of his career to breaking down barriers for ethnic minority
9 dealers through serving on several influential boards,
10 including the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA),
11 where he was a member of its board of directors and represented
12 dealers in Region III; he also held such leadership roles as
13 past president of the General Motors Minority Dealers
14 Association (GMMDA) and past chairman of the National
15 Association of Minority Automobile Dealers (NAMAD), advocating
16 for a more inclusive and equitable industry; he was also the
17 first minority member appointed to the Chicago Auto Trade
18 Association (CATA), the nation's oldest and largest dealer
19 organization; and

20 WHEREAS, Desmond Roberts is deeply committed to community
21 service and believes in the importance of giving back; his
22 dealerships have supported numerous local causes, including
23 Fill the Van, a Christmas drive providing food and gifts to
24 those in need; he also champions educational initiatives and

1 youth development through his role as chief financial officer
2 of the Make A Difference Youth Foundation, an organization
3 dedicated to helping students prepare for higher education and
4 successful careers; and

5 WHEREAS, Desmond Roberts' leadership, business acumen, and
6 contributions to both the automotive industry and his
7 community have earned him numerous accolades, including being
8 recognized as one of the nation's top dealers, earning the
9 Chevrolet Genuine Leadership Award, being named to Crain
10 Communications' list of Chicago's largest minority-owned
11 firms, receiving the Business Man of the Year award from the
12 Village of Bolingbrook in 2009, and being a multiple recipient
13 of the prestigious General Motors Dealer of the Year/Jack
14 Smith Leadership Award, which recognizes top-tier dealers for
15 leadership and performance; he has also been featured in a
16 number of prominent publications, including Automotive News
17 and Ebony magazine; and

18 WHEREAS, Desmond Roberts continues to steer his
19 dealerships toward success while advocating for greater
20 diversity in the automotive sector, a cause he champions
21 through his active participation in national industry
22 discussions and initiatives; his legacy as a trailblazer for
23 minority dealers and his deep commitment to his community make
24 him a respected leader and role model in the industry;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we congratulate Desmond A. Roberts on his 25th anniversary as
5 president of Advantage Dealer Group, and we wish him continued
6 success in his professional endeavors; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Desmond Roberts as an expression of our esteem
9 and respect.