

House Resolution No. 808

Whereas, Kathy Dawn Finnell of Kansas City, Missouri, has been nominated to receive the prestigious DeVerne Lee Calloway Award, a tremendous accolade given annually by the Women Legislators of Missouri in honor of Missouri's first African-American woman state representative; and

Whereas, the DeVerne Lee Calloway Award is presented to a Missouri woman who, through her commitment and determination, has made major contributions to equality and social justice by furthering legislation concerning equal opportunities for all Missourians in the areas of education, housing, employment, etc.; and

Whereas, since February of 1999, Kathy Finnell has served as the Chief Trial Assistant Prosecutor, Community Justice Unit with the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, where she has successfully managed community-oriented prosecution and restorative justice initiative integrating law enforcement, prevention, and intervention to identify and resolve quality of life issues presented by criminal activity and substance abuse in Jackson County; supervised seven Assistant Prosecutors; overseen the coordination of the Drug Abatement Response Team; and served as a Liaison with command and patrol staff of police departments throughout Jackson County; and

Whereas, Kathy Finnell is exceedingly proud of the important role she played as a Civil Rights Attorney with Arthur Benson and Associates from 1996 to 1999, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney with the Jackson County Prosecutor's Office from 1993 to 1996, Assistant Public Defender with the Missouri State Public Defender System from 1991 to 1993, Summer Law Associate with Lathrop Norquist and Gage and Tucker in 1990, Account Representative with the Honeywell Corporation from 1987 to 1988, and Sales Representative with Pitney Bowes from 1985 to 1987; and

Whereas, one of Kathy's finest moments as a litigator came when her client, Paula Hampton of Overland Park, was awarded a \$1.156 million verdict in a Consumer Racism case brought against Dillard Department Stores; and

Whereas, a 1991 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., who was recognized by the Kansas City Globe as one of the "100 Most Influential African Americans" in 1997, Kathy Finnell is the worthy recipient of countless awards and accolades including the 1996 Jackson County Prosecutor's Office Outstanding Service Award and 1993 Rookie of the Year Award, and the 1995 Jackson County Distinguished Public Service Award:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-first General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Kathy Finnell upon her well-deserved nomination for the DeVerne Lee Calloway Award; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Kathy Dawn Finnell.

Offered by _____
 Representative Cathy Jolly
 District No. 45

I, Jim Kreider, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
 Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do

certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 808, adopted March 15, 2002.

Jim Kreider, Speaker

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