

House Resolution No. 1607

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State residents who have enhanced the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods through the excellence of their vocational pursuits, civic involvement, and professional leadership; and

Whereas, Marla Calico of Springfield has enjoyed a longtime association with the Ozark Empire Fair which began when she was a student in 4-H and showed animals at that venue; and

Whereas, a job at the Ozark Empire Fair “mucking out stalls, selling tickets to the races, and doing just about anything that needed doing” helped pay Marla Calico’s way through college and taught her every inch of the fairgrounds; and

Whereas, Marla Calico steadily accepted more duties and responsibilities beginning in 1977 as a Clerk in the Fair’s livestock entry department, moving to livestock department director in 1979, and becoming exhibits director in 1980; and

Whereas, in 1983 Marla Calico was hired as an assistant to Fair Manager Dan Fortner who was looking for someone to help him revive a fair that was heavily in debt and struggling to find its identity; and

Whereas, Marla Calico became operations manager in 1988 and general manager in 1995, the position which she will draw to a close on April 9, 2004, after twenty-seven years of service in order to shift the focus of her time and energy to her new job as executive vice president of fairs and exhibition management for the national fair marketing company ExpoAmerica of Wilton, Connecticut; and

Whereas, in addition to helping raise the Ozark Empire Fair’s attendance from 125,000 visitors to more than 226,000, Marla Calico was instrumental in developing the Lawn and Garden Show and generating support for the E-Plex \$6 million expansion which helped modernize the fairgrounds and opened the door to year-round revenue-producing events such as gun shows:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join to applaud the stellar contributions so freely given by Marla Calico to the Ozark Empire Fair and to convey to her this legislative body’s most heartfelt best wishes for continued success for many more years to come; 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 Marla Calico.

Offered by _____
 Representative James Viebrock
 District No. 134

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1607, adopted April 8, 2004.

 Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker