

## House Resolution No. 2870

**Whereas**, Paula Baker, Chief Executive Officer of the Ozark Center, has distinguished herself as the leader of one of the largest healthcare providers in the area; and

**Whereas**, for the past twenty-four years, Paula Baker has worked at the Ozark Center, a Joplin behavioral health system that, over the past thirty-nine years, has expanded to include twenty clinics and nearly 350 employees throughout Joplin, Neosho, Carthage, and Pittsburg; and

**Whereas**, Paula Baker served the Ozark Center as Director of Clerical Services, Quality Assurance, Practice Management, and Risk Management prior to 2003 when she was named Chief Operating Officer, the first female to ever hold the title; and

**Whereas**, an administrative agent of the Department of Mental Health, the Ozark Center is the only operation in the area that offers a full continuum of behavioral health services and currently has more than 10,000 active patients ranging from those who need short-term counseling to people with serious mental disorders; and

**Whereas**, the Ozark Center has been able to provide behavioral health care not only for adults, but for children and geriatric patients as well, thanks in part to the recruitment of highly credentialed psychiatrists; and

**Whereas**, Paula Baker recently received word that the Ozark Center, which is developing more extensive services, has been awarded a grant from Housing and Urban Development to build a fifteen-unit apartment complex for the chronically mentally ill, many of whom are homeless or in substandard housing; and

**Whereas**, the Ozark Center will celebrate its fortieth anniversary in 2005, at which time Paula Baker hopes to bolster the level of care the center offers for those with memory disorders such as Alzheimer's and dementia; and

**Whereas**, Paula Baker earned a teaching certificate and Master's degree in clinical psychology at Pittsburg University in Pittsburg, Kansas:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the career achievements of Paula Baker and to convey to her this body's heartiest best wishes for continued success in all future endeavors; 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 Paula Baker, as a measure of our esteem for her.

Offered by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Representative Marilyn Ruestman  
 District No. 131

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. 2870, adopted May 7, 2004.

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 Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker