

Whereas, from time to time the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize the meritorious endeavors of exceptional Missourians; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey, a resident of Florissant, Missouri, has enjoyed the honor, glory, and distinction of being selected Miss USA, a most impressive accolade bestowed upon her during the most watched Miss USA competition in six years; and

Whereas, the first Miss Missouri to attain the title of Miss USA, Shandi Finnessey was crowned Miss USA 2004 before a live audience of 13 million viewers on April 12, 2004; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey's role as Miss USA will be to support such causes as breast and ovarian cancer education, research, and legislation and to travel nationwide as an advocate for such organizations as NABCO (National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations), the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund, the National Breast Cancer Coalition, Susan G. Komen, and Gilda's Club, just to name a few; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey, who is dedicated to helping people with disabilities, was awarded the Angel Award for her service and given a key to the City of Florissant for her work to promote inclusion of mentally challenged individuals; and

Whereas, Shandi Finnessey has also enjoyed recognition as a professional model since the age of six, the author of the children's book Furrtails, a pianist, violinist, yoga and meditation practitioner, an abstract painter, and a knitter; and

Whereas, the twenty-six-year-old daughter of Patrick and Linda Finnessey, Shandi Finnessey is working on a Master's degree in counseling at Lindenwood University, where she is an honors graduate who earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology, conducted research on androgyny that proved significant, and was published in the SEPA Journal:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously in extending our most hearty congratulations to Shandi Finnessey upon her coronation as Miss USA 2004, and in wishing her the best of luck 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 Shandi Finnessey, as a measure of our esteem for her.

Offered by Speaker Catherine L. Hanaway
District No. 87

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. 4098, adopted September 16, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker