



January 12, 2026

Dear IPP Bethanie and the JCI USA Awards Committee,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I submit this recommendation for Greg Hilleary, Senator #43305, as Most Outstanding Senator. Greg's service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to both the Illinois Jaycees and the JCI Illinois Senate exemplify the highest standards of this honor.

Greg made history by serving as the Illinois Jaycees' first Senate Liaison, a role that proved to be instrumental in strengthening the relationship between the two organizations. Through his leadership, communication, and genuine respect for both bodies, Greg helped bridge gaps and foster collaboration in ways that had a lasting impact.

In addition to this groundbreaking role, Greg served as JCI Illinois Senate President from 2010–2011 and previously as Vice President of the Illinois Jaycees. His dual perspective allowed him to bring invaluable historical knowledge, insight, and continuity to leadership discussions. As State President, I personally relied on Greg not only as a trusted sounding board, but as a source of steady guidance for the entire Jaycee Board.

Greg has an approachable demeanor that naturally brings people together, and he is widely respected across both organizations. He consistently and quietly managed differences of opinion between individuals, ensuring that collaboration remained productive and positive. His leadership style is defined not by volume, but by effectiveness, integrity, and results.

Greg demonstrated extraordinary dedication by attending all state events for both the Illinois Jaycees and the JCI Illinois Senate. He proudly served as Emcee for the State General Assemblies, provided regular and timely updates to the Senate on Jaycee programs and events, and ensured transparency and shared understanding between the organizations.

Perhaps most importantly, Greg actively connected local chapters with the support and manpower needed to succeed. These connections made a significant and measurable difference in the success of numerous projects statewide, reinforcing the mission and impact of both organizations.

Greg Hilleary's leadership, service, and commitment embody what it means to be an outstanding Senator. His legacy of unity, collaboration, and quiet excellence has left an indelible mark on JCI Illinois. I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.

In Jaycee Spirit,

Lanna Bartko
Chairman of the Board
94th State President
Illinois Jaycees