



HR1042

LRB100 21878 MST 39739 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor and celebrate the life of Thomas
4 "Tom" Waid Vanderpoel; and

5 WHEREAS, Tom Vanderpoel was born on February 10, 1951 to
6 Waid and Ruth Vanderpoel; and

7 WHEREAS, Graduating from Barrington High School in 1969,
8 Tom Vanderpoel and his four brothers developed an appreciation
9 for wildlife and conservation thanks to their parents; and

10 WHEREAS, Following high school, Tom Vanderpoel went on to
11 study wildlife biology at the University of Wyoming; and

12 WHEREAS, Returning to the Barrington area after his
13 studies, Tom Vanderpoel followed in his father's footsteps and
14 became actively involved in the Citizens for Conservation,
15 ultimately taking on the role of Director of Restoration; and

16 WHEREAS, Tom Vanderpoel became widely recognized for the
17 many native restoration efforts he led in the Barrington area,
18 part of a vision to create a series of high-quality habitats
19 and pathways to connect preserves throughout the area to allow
20 wildlife to flourish; and

1 WHEREAS, The countless hours Tom Vanderpoel spent planning
2 future restoration tasks, encouraging volunteers, and doing
3 the hard physical labor of digging, burning, and picking is
4 seen today in the transformation of the formerly fallow, weed
5 filled fields at Grigsby Prairie and Flint Creek Savanna that
6 now thrive with seas of native grasses; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom Vanderpoel's spearheading of local
8 initiatives has restored and preserved more than 3,500 acres of
9 natural habitat in the Barrington area; and

10 WHEREAS, Although he never sought leadership positions,
11 Tom Vanderpoel's abilities were constantly sought by leading
12 ecologists, leading to his participation in many more
13 restoration efforts throughout Illinois and Wisconsin; and

14 WHEREAS, Despite the many overtures for his services,
15 including by the Nature Conservancy, which is a leading
16 international conservation organization, Tom Vanderpoel
17 remained passionately focused on local conservation projects
18 and education; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom Vanderpoel's contribution is not only seen in
20 restoration projects, he shared his expertise freely and kindly
21 to both educate and inspire young and old alike; and

1 WHEREAS, Tom Vanderpoel shared this knowledge and worked
2 collaboratively with the Nature Conservancy's Volunteer
3 Stewardship Network, the Bobolink Foundation, Audubon Great
4 Lakes, the Lake County Forest Preserve, the Forest Preserve
5 District of Cook County, and member organizations of Chicago
6 Wilderness; and

7 WHEREAS, Although Tom Vanderpoel never pursued personal
8 accolades or recognition, he received numerous awards for both
9 his volunteerism and his restoration work, notably being named
10 the 2009 Citizen of the Year by the Barrington Area Development
11 Council and receiving the inaugural Excellence in Conservation
12 Award from Chicago Wilderness in 2004, an honor he cherished;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Those who knew and volunteered and worked
15 alongside Tom Vanderpoel saw his passion and willingness to
16 teach others as an inspiration to all, thus he was called a
17 "conservation luminary" by a colleague for his lasting
18 contribution to his community; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom Vanderpoel passed away unexpectedly on August
20 8, 2017 at the age of 66, but his work has left a lasting
21 impression for decades to come; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 honor and celebrate the life of Tom Vanderpoel for his many
4 years of dedicated service to his community, the Citizens for
5 Conservation, and natural restoration; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Tom Vanderpoel as an expression of
8 our esteem and respect.