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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Monmouth was the lifelong home of internationally  
3 renowned illusionist William Mozart Nicol, also known as The  
4 Great Nicola; and

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WHEREAS, The Great Nicola was a talented inventor and  
6 showman who devised innovative apparatuses in his Monmouth  
7 workshop that inspired the grand stage illusions performed by  
8 today's most celebrated magicians; and

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10 WHEREAS, The Great Nicola's extensive world travels  
11 delivered goodwill in the form of a popular American  
entertainment to the far reaches of civilization; and

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13 WHEREAS, The Great Nicola's collecting of exotic animals  
14 for zoos and production of travel films with his partner helped  
15 educate the Western world about the natural wonders and  
civilizations of Asia and Africa; and

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17 WHEREAS, The Great Nicola and his brother, The Great  
18 Chalbert, learned their craft from their father, a Scottish  
19 immigrant known as Nicoli the Great, demonstrating that  
20 immigration contributes to the enrichment of the cultural  
fabric of the United States; and

1           WHEREAS, The Great Nicola was an internationally known  
2           celebrity who, despite touring world capitals and befriending  
3           royalty, chose to maintain his primary residence in rural  
4           Illinois, which he believed offered a quality of life lacking  
5           in metropolitan centers; and

6           WHEREAS, Monmouth is the burial place of The Great Nicola,  
7           his magician father and brother, and his pet elephant, Nizie,  
8           used in one of Nicola's most famous stage illusions; and

9           WHEREAS, Monmouth is developing a professionally curated  
10          museum, celebrating and interpreting the rich history of  
11          Western Illinois and the innovators, such as The Great Nicola;  
12          and

13          WHEREAS, The Warren County History Museum maintains in its  
14          collection artifacts associated with The Great Nicola, and  
15          through an annual event known as The Great Nicola Magic  
16          Festival, they provide educational programming and  
17          entertainment celebrating the history and art of magic; and

18          WHEREAS, The Great Nicola Magic Festival will enhance  
19          tourism opportunities in Illinois and contribute to the  
20          economic development of Western Illinois; therefore, be it

21          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we wish The Great  
2 Nicola Magic Festival organizers success in their efforts to  
3 create and sustain an annual festival celebrating the legacy of  
4 The Great Nicola and the craft he helped popularize; and be it  
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That we declare April 21, 2018 as "Magic Day in  
7 Monmouth"; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
9 presented to the City of Monmouth and the Warren County History  
10 Museum.