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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Blake James Dale Kinnett of Alvin, Illinois is a strong-willed, independent, and hard-working high school student; he is the son of John and Becky Kinnett and has two siblings, a sister, Kaitlyn, and a brother, Gareth; he attended Bismarck Henning Rossville Alvin Cooperative High School, where he enjoyed playing football and basketball for the Blue Devils; and

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WHEREAS, Blake Kinnett has always had a passion for sports, especially baseball and basketball; he was a two-time State Champion in baseball by the age of 12 and played baseball in Cooperstown, New York with the Iliana Chiefs team which placed 21st out of 130 teams; during this time, he was a source of inspiration for his teammates, as he played baseball despite having a broken arm; and

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WHEREAS, In addition to being an accomplished baseball player, Blake Kinnett enjoyed playing basketball in Alvin, where a community court has been renamed Kinnett's Court in his honor; and

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WHEREAS, When he was not busy playing sports, Blake Kinnett could be found spending time with his friends, and family, riding around on his golf cart, fishing, or hunting turkeys;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, In February 2017, Blake Kinnett was diagnosed with
3 Adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), a genetic disease that destroys
4 the protective myelin sheath that surrounds the brain's
5 neurons; and

6 WHEREAS, ALD affects 1 in 18,000 people, mostly boys and
7 men; there is no cure for ALD; and

8 WHEREAS, In the wake of Blake Kinnett's diagnosis, the
9 community of Alvin has been incredibly generous and supportive
10 of him and his family; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we commend Blake
13 Kinnett for his courage and determination in the face of his
14 ALD diagnosis; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we also commend the Kinnett family and the
16 community of Alvin for their unwavering support of Blake; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we declare December 1, 2018 as "Blake
19 Kinnett Day" in the State of Illinois to help raise awareness
20 of ALD; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Blake Kinnett and his family as a symbol of our
3 esteem and respect.