



HR0194

LRB101 11520 ALS 57347 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Derek and Renee Martin of  
4 Mount Pulaski on being named national winners at the 63rd  
5 Annual National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress,  
6 which was held February 7-10 in Bettendorf, Iowa; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Outstanding Young Farmers program is  
8 the oldest farmer-recognition program in the United States and  
9 selected its first group of national winners in 1955; and

10 WHEREAS, The program is sponsored by John Deere,  
11 administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America, and  
12 supported by the National Association of County Agricultural  
13 Agents and the U.S. Jaycees; and

14 WHEREAS, From a group of ten finalists, four national  
15 winners were selected for the award based on their progress in  
16 an agricultural career, extent of soil and water conservation  
17 practices, and contributions to the well-being of the  
18 community, state, and nation; and

19 WHEREAS, The family farm of Derek Martin began in 1827 with  
20 a man he describes as "a pioneer citizen that farmed with  
21 decided strength of character and rigid honesty of deeds and

1 words, who was not afraid to work"; these characteristics have  
2 been passed down the Martin family line throughout the last 200  
3 years; and

4 WHEREAS, As a seventh-generation farmer, Derek continues  
5 the family's commitment to conservation, as his father began  
6 no-tilling in 1983; Derek has expanded that practice to include  
7 cover crops on 50 percent of his 3,200 corn and soybean acres;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Derek and Renee Martin worked with an agronomist  
10 to develop a biological solution, applied in both the spring  
11 and the fall, that allows the soil ratios back into balance and  
12 improves the soil health, soil aggregation, water  
13 infiltration, and water-holding capacity; and

14 WHEREAS, Derek Martin earned a degree in farm and financial  
15 management from the University of Illinois; prior to beginning  
16 farming five years ago, he had a career managing grain  
17 elevators; and

18 WHEREAS, Renee Martin was a dental hygienist before their  
19 return to the family farm; she now stays home to help with the  
20 farming operation and also cares for their two sons, Dean and  
21 Reed; both of the Martins coach youth sports, and Derek is  
22 president of the township park district and the drainage

1 district; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
3 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we congratulate Derek and Renee Martin on being named one of  
5 four National Outstanding Young Farmers award winners; and be  
6 it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to Derek and Renee Martin as an expression of our  
9 esteem and respect.