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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Operation Lifesaver on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is a leader in supporting highway-rail grade crossing and pedestrian safety programs; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception in 1972, Operation Lifesaver has been the foremost public information and education program dedicated to preventing highway-rail grade crossing crashes and pedestrian/railroad trespass incidents; and

WHEREAS, Operation Lifesaver is sponsored cooperatively by the federal government, the State of Illinois, local government agencies, civic and business organizations, the nation's railroads, and other groups interested in highway safety; and

WHEREAS, Through the unrelenting efforts of Operation Lifesaver and its public safety partners, the number of train/motor vehicle collisions has been reduced from a high in 1972 of roughly 12,000 annual incidents to approximately 2,200 incidents in 2019; and

1 WHEREAS, While the number of highway-rail crossing
2 collisions, deaths, and injuries has dropped over the past
3 five decades, the mission is still important, as every three
4 hours in the U.S. a person or vehicle is hit by a train; and

5 WHEREAS, Highway-grade crossing crashes are more severe
6 than highway collisions and are more likely to result in death
7 and injury; and

8 WHEREAS, Collisions between trains and motor vehicles or
9 pedestrians can be reduced by increased public awareness of
10 the dangers at crossings and around railroad property and the
11 appropriate safety laws; and

12 WHEREAS, This important observance should lead to greater
13 safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade
14 crossings crashes and pedestrian/railroad incidents;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate Operation Lifesaver on its 50th anniversary
19 and commend all Illinois freight and passenger railroad
20 stakeholders who have supported the program's progress in the
21 State of Illinois; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we encourage all citizens to participate in
2 activities to reduce crossing crashes and pedestrian/railroad
3 trespass incidents throughout the year; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Operation Lifesaver as a symbol of our respect
6 and esteem.