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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ+) veterans have honorably served in the U.S. Armed Forces throughout the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ veterans have faced numerous discriminatory policies, including the ban on open service, and policies such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" that forced them to hide their identities; and

WHEREAS, Historical policies such as Executive Order 10450 and subsequent military regulations discriminated against LGBTQ+ individuals, labeling them as security risks or unfit for service due to their sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, These policies led to the discharge and exclusion of LGBTQ+ servicemembers, denying them the recognition and benefits they deserved and causing lasting harm; and

WHEREAS, On September 20, 2011, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was officially repealed, allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military; and

1           WHEREAS, The Department of Defense and the Department of  
2 Veterans Affairs have begun to address the injustices faced by  
3 LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans, including discharge  
4 upgrades; and

5           WHEREAS, Ongoing challenges remain for LGBTQ+  
6 servicemembers and veterans in achieving equitable treatment  
7 and access to benefits, including healthcare services such as  
8 gender-affirming care; and

9           WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ Veterans Day celebrates the contributions  
10 and sacrifices of LGBTQ+ veterans, acknowledges the continued  
11 need for progress in ensuring their rights and recognition,  
12 and serves as a reminder of the importance of inclusivity and  
13 equality in all aspects of military and civilian life and as a  
14 call to action for further outreach and support for LGBTQ+  
15 veterans; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18 we declare September 20, 2024 as LGBTQ+ Veterans Day in the  
19 State of Illinois to honor and celebrate the courage,  
20 commitment, and service of LGBTQ+ veterans and to acknowledge  
21 the historical and ongoing challenges they face.