



SJ0019

LRB103 26718 LAW 53081 r

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the General Assembly pays honor and respect to those individuals who have contributed to the success of their community and the State and to the efforts to cure childhood cancers and other pediatric diseases; and

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WHEREAS, Roger and Regina Landon of Chandlerville established trail rides at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area, one of the State's largest public access areas, to highlight the beautiful facets of nature found at this location, to bring horse and fish enthusiasts together to enjoy the trails of this wildlife area, and to encourage camping at the location; and

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WHEREAS, In 2001, Roger and Regina Landon began organizing numerous horse trail rides at the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (St. Jude), gathering horse enthusiasts from all over central Illinois to attend their Saddle-Up for St. Jude event to raise money for children diagnosed with cancer and other pediatric diseases that are being treated at St. Jude, an event the Landon family continues to host and organize each June to this day; and

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1           WHEREAS, St. Jude, located in Memphis, Tennessee, treats  
2 children with cancer and other pediatric diseases; the  
3 hospital's research efforts are directed at understanding the  
4 molecular, genetic, and chemical basis of catastrophic  
5 diseases in children, identifying cures for such diseases, and  
6 promoting their prevention, with research being focused  
7 specifically on cancers, acquired and inherited  
8 immunodeficiency disorders, sickle cell disease, infectious  
9 diseases, and genetic disorders; in Illinois, the hospital is  
10 associated with the Children's Hospital of Illinois, located  
11 in Peoria; and

12           WHEREAS, St. Jude treats children at no cost to the  
13 patients; in order to operate, it is estimated to cost the  
14 hospital more than \$2 billion each year, with the majority of  
15 those funds coming from generous donors and fundraising  
16 events; and

17           WHEREAS, Roger and Regina Landon started Saddle-Up for St.  
18 Jude in 2001 with the initial goal of becoming more successful  
19 than similar fundraisers held in Illinois, which then averaged  
20 \$3,500; their annual benefit includes food, music, raffles,  
21 prizes, and a silent auction, with items donated by generous  
22 friends and acquaintances; their benefit is well-attended each  
23 year, not only by horse enthusiasts but also by individuals  
24 interested in supporting St. Jude; and

1           WHEREAS, Roger and Regina Landon's Saddle-Up for St. Jude  
2 raised \$10,000 after its first benefit, with the event  
3 routinely securing more donations each year; when the COVID-19  
4 pandemic looked to derail their efforts in 2020, they pivoted  
5 their outdoor event to a virtual fundraiser, collecting an  
6 additional \$35,000 for St. Jude; most recently, their benefit  
7 raised over \$63,000 in 2022; since the benefit's inception,  
8 they have given over \$800,000 to benefit the children at St.  
9 Jude; and

10           WHEREAS, For his work and dedication, Roger Landon was  
11 recognized as Event Coordinator of the Year by St. Jude in  
12 2012, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the hospital,  
13 which was established in 1962; and

14           WHEREAS, Sadly, Roger Landon passed in the fall of 2021;  
15 Michael Landon, one of Roger and Regina's sons, assumed the  
16 leadership role for the Saddle-Up for St. Jude event,  
17 continuing his parents' efforts to bring people together in  
18 order to support the work of St. Jude; and

19           WHEREAS, The Landon family remains personally interested  
20 in the Jim Edgar Panther Creek Equestrian Park, not only  
21 because of it being the location for Saddle-Up for St. Jude but  
22 also for their desire to keep the park beautiful and enticing

1 for everyone to visit and camp; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
4 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the  
5 equestrian campground within the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State  
6 Fish and Wildlife Area in Chandlerville as the "Landon  
7 Equestrian Campground"; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Department of Natural Resources is  
9 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
10 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
11 giving notice of the name "Landon Equestrian Campground"; and  
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we recognize Regina Landon and the late  
14 Roger Landon on their distinguished volunteerism and their  
15 lifelong dedication to the people of Illinois and to  
16 preserving the natural fish and wildlife areas of Illinois;  
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we recognize Michael Landon for continuing  
19 his parents' legacy and leading Saddle-Up for St. Jude; and be  
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be

1 presented to the Director of Natural Resources and the Landon  
2 family.