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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, 30,000 to 50,000 Americans have myositis; most are afflicted with inclusion body myositis; and

WHEREAS, Myositis consists of inflammatory myopathies which involve the inflammation and degeneration of muscle tissues and is thought to be an autoimmune disorder; in inflammatory myopathies, inflammatory cells surround, invade, and destroy normal muscle fibers as though they were defective or foreign to the body; this eventually results in devastating muscle weakness which is usually symmetrical and develops slowly over weeks to months or even years; and

WHEREAS, Three types of inflammatory myopathies include dermatomyositis, polymyositis, and inclusion body myositis; each is unique in development and treatment; people affected by myositis suffer from a debilitating autoimmune neuromuscular disease; and

WHEREAS, The Myositis Association works to improve the lives of those affected by inflammatory myopathies; the organization seeks out persons with inflammatory myopathies, provides a support network, acts as a resource for patients and the medical community and as an advocate for patients, and promotes research into the cause and treatment of the diseases; and

WHEREAS, Myositis Awareness Day began with one person trying to raise awareness about myositis in Massachusetts on September 21, 2001; in 2002, four states proclaimed the day and in 2003, there are plans for recognition in over 20 states and four countries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that September 21, 2003 shall be Myositis Awareness Day in the

1 State of Illinois in order to raise awareness about myositis;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to The Myositis Association.