



1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois recognizes certain dates of  
3 the year for honoring specific patriotic, civic, cultural and  
4 historic persons, activities, symbols, or events; and

5 WHEREAS, On June 20, 1782, the American eagle was  
6 designated as the National Emblem of the United States when the  
7 Great Seal of the United States was adopted, and is the living  
8 symbol of the United States' freedoms, spirit and strength; in  
9 December 1818, shortly after the Illinois Territory gained  
10 statehood, the bald eagle became part of Great Seal of the  
11 State of Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, Found only in North America and once on the  
13 endangered species list, the bald eagle population is now  
14 growing again, especially along the western border of Illinois;  
15 while the natural domain of bald eagles is from Alaska to  
16 California, and Maine to Florida, the great State of Illinois  
17 provides a winter home for thousands of these majestic birds as  
18 they make their journey northwards to the upper Midwest and  
19 Canada for spring nesting; and

20 WHEREAS, From December through February, Illinois is home  
21 to the largest concentration of wintering bald eagles in the  
22 Continental United States; eagle-watching has become a  
23 thriving hobby and form of State tourism in at least 27  
24 Illinois counties; many organizations and municipalities  
25 across the State host annual eagle viewing and educational  
26 events and celebrations; and

27 WHEREAS, Illinois is home to two major waterways; our  
28 treasured Illinois River as it connects Lake Michigan to the  
29 Mississippi River, and the mighty Mississippi River as it flows  
30 along the western border, perfect habitats for eagles who must  
31 live near large bodies of open water where there are fish to

1 eat and tall trees for nesting and roosts; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
4 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize the fourth Saturday in  
5 January as American Eagle Day in Illinois and encourage public  
6 and private entities of the State to celebrate these  
7 magnificent birds and strive to keep them flying free.