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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle was designated as the U.S.A.'s National Emblem on June 20, 1782 by our Country's Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress; and

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WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle is unique to North America and represents such American values and attributes as Freedom, Courage, Strength, Spirit, Justice, Quality, and Excellence; and

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WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and in the logos of many branches of the United States government, including the Presidency, Congress, Defense Department, Treasury Department, Justice Department, State Department, Department Of Commerce, and the U.S. Postal Service; and

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WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle's image, meaning, and symbolism have played a significant role in the beliefs, traditions, religions, lifestyles, and heritage of Americans from all walks of life, including U.S. military service men and women, American Indians, Christians, and members of various civic, fraternal, patriotic, veterans, youth, conservation, educational, outdoors, nature, sportsman, wildlife, political, and sports organizations; and

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1 WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle's image, meaning, and symbolism
2 have played a significant role in American art, music,
3 literature, architecture, commerce, education, culture, and on
4 United States stamps, currency, and coinage; and

5 WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle was once endangered with possible
6 extinction, but is making a gradual and encouraging comeback to
7 America's skies; and

8 WHEREAS, The Bald Eagle was federally classified as an
9 "endangered species" in the lower 48 states under the
10 Endangered Species Act in 1973, and was upgraded to a less
11 imperiled "threatened" status under that Act in 1995; and

12 WHEREAS, The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish &
13 Wildlife Service plan to delist the Bald Eagle from Endangered
14 Species Act protection in 2007, but will continue to be
15 protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Act of 1940 and the
16 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; and

17 WHEREAS, The recovery of the U.S.A.'s Bald Eagle population
18 was largely accomplished due to the vigilant efforts of
19 numerous caring agencies, corporations, organizations and
20 citizens; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that that we hereby proclaim
3 June 20th as American Eagle Day in the State of Illinois; and
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That we encourage all United States citizens to
6 join us in support of the majestic Bald Eagle's continuing
7 recovery and the protection of its precious natural habitat,
8 and in commemorating the living and symbolic presence of our
9 National Bird through the annual observance of American Eagle
10 Day.