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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Car accidents are the leading cause of death of 16  
3 to 19-year olds; crashes on the road kill more teens than  
4 cancer, homicide, and suicide combined; and

5           WHEREAS, In the United States, teen driver and peer  
6 passenger deaths account for one quarter of total teen deaths  
7 every year; and

8           WHEREAS, Distracted or impaired teen drivers are not only a  
9 danger to themselves, but more than half a million people are  
10 involved in crashes every year where a teen driver was behind  
11 the wheel; and

12           WHEREAS, According to a study completed in 2011 by the  
13 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance,  
14 nearly one in five teen drivers involved in fatal crashes were  
15 reported to have been distracted while driving; these figures  
16 do not account for those accidents that are not reported; and

17           WHEREAS, Focusing attention on removing distractions and  
18 preventing behaviors that are known to raise crash risk, such  
19 as speeding, alcohol use, failure to wear a seat belt,  
20 distractions from peer passengers, and texting while driving,  
21 can lead to successfully and significantly lowered crash risks

1 for teen drivers; and

2 WHEREAS, Mt. Pulaski High School in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois,  
3 will hold a student assembly on May 23, 2011 to educate high  
4 school students about the dangers of distracted driving and  
5 encourage them to practice safe driving habits; and

6 WHEREAS, Mt. Pulaski High School will welcome State Farm  
7 Agent Deron Powell and Miss Illinois 2010, Whitney  
8 Thorpe-Klinsky, to the high school as part of the presentation  
9 on safe teen driving; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
11 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we designate the date of May 23, 2011 as "Mt. Pulaski High  
13 School Teens Drive Safe Day" in the State of Illinois as a  
14 reminder to all drivers, especially our youth, that they should  
15 avoid distractions while driving and arrive at their  
16 destinations alive and well; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
18 presented to Mt. Pulaski High School as a symbol of our esteem  
19 and respect.