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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Municipalities continually struggle to maintain  
3 necessary funds for the compensation of full-time emergency  
4 responders; as such, municipalities turn to the aid of  
5 volunteers to supplement necessary services; and

6 WHEREAS, Volunteer emergency responders often go  
7 unappreciated for all of their long hours and incomprehensible  
8 skill sets; and

9 WHEREAS, Volunteer emergency responders endure hours of  
10 training in preparation of disasters and emergencies; and

11 WHEREAS, Emergency responders are required to become  
12 proficient in emergency medical training and numerous other  
13 skills; and

14 WHEREAS, These volunteer firefighters, emergency medical  
15 technicians (EMTs), divers, rescue squads, and response teams  
16 risk their lives daily to help the needs of their community;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, These individuals respond to emergency calls at  
19 any moment, at any time of the day, often leaving their  
20 families and full-time jobs on a moment's notice; and

1           WHEREAS, Volunteer firefighters, EMTs, divers, rescue  
2 squads, and response teams risk their lives on emergency calls  
3 and are compensated by either small stipends or no pay at all;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The contributions and sacrifices of volunteer  
6 firefighters, EMTs, divers, rescue squads, and response teams  
7 and their families often go unrecognized; and

8           WHEREAS, There are over 30,000 people serving throughout  
9 the State of Illinois as volunteer firefighters and EMTs; and

10           WHEREAS, According the United States Fire Administration,  
11 60% of firefighter deaths in the United States in 2011 have  
12 been volunteer servicers; therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
15 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we honor these volunteer emergency  
16 responders, who serve without compensation, and constantly  
17 risk their lives on a daily basis to retain the safety of their  
18 communities, by proclaiming the third Thursday in May of 2012  
19 as Volunteer Emergency Responder Appreciation Day in the State  
20 of Illinois.