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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Honorable Abraham Lincoln was, prior to his election, a resident of Illinois; upon his election as President of the United States, he became Commander-in-Chief of the nation's armed forces, in accordance with Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution of the United States; and

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WHEREAS, During the entire period of President Lincoln's terms in office, the United States was engaged in the Civil War; and

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WHEREAS, Although President Lincoln, as Commander-in-Chief, was a civilian, he was closely connected with the armed forces of the United States during this period, ceaselessly visiting operating units of the armed forces as well as the field hospitals and other facilities set aside for the care and treatment of sick and wounded soldiers and sailors; and

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WHEREAS, Five days after the surrender of General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia, then being the principal force bearing arms in support of the Confederate States of America, President Lincoln was fatally wounded on April 14, 1865 by an enraged and resentful partisan of the insurgency; and

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1           WHEREAS, Upon President Lincoln's death on the morning of  
2           April 15, 1865, he was identified as a victim of the Civil War  
3           and is considered one of the final casualties of the tragic  
4           conflict; and

5           WHEREAS, President Lincoln's home state of Illinois laid  
6           claim, with the support of his widow Mary Todd Lincoln, to his  
7           mortal remains; over a 20-day period, the remains of the  
8           President were returned to Illinois in a scene of intense  
9           gratitude for his service to the nation; on May 4, 1865, the  
10          remains of the President, after being transported through the  
11          streets of Springfield, were laid to rest in Oak Ridge  
12          Cemetery, close to the site where they remain today; and

13          WHEREAS, The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition has taken on  
14          the responsibility of organizing a historically accurate  
15          reenactment of President Lincoln's funeral procession through  
16          Springfield; in so doing, the Coalition and its Board of  
17          Directors, participants, and volunteers have set forth as part  
18          of their mission statement the goals of educating reenactment  
19          participants, coordinating the reenactment, and promoting the  
20          solemn and dignified observance of the occasion; and

21          WHEREAS, The dates designated for the funeral reenactment  
22          are May 2 and May 3, 2015; and

1           WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the State of Illinois  
2 pay honor and respect to President Lincoln by observing the  
3 sesquicentennial of his death and funeral; therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
6 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the days of May 2,  
7 2015, May 3, 2015, and May 4, 2015 as days of remembrance in  
8 honor of the 150th anniversary of the death and funeral of  
9 President Abraham Lincoln; and be it further

10           RESOLVED, That we request the Governor to order the United  
11 States national flag and the State flag of Illinois to be flown  
12 at half-staff on the days of May 2, 2015, May 3, 2015, and May  
13 4, 2015; and be it further

14           RESOLVED, That we encourage all residents of the State to  
15 display the United States national flag and the State flag of  
16 Illinois at half-staff during these days of remembrance; and be  
17 it further

18           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 presented to the Governor and to Katie Spindell, Chairman of  
20 the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition.