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1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1002

2 WHEREAS, The essence of American Democracy is a government
3 of the people, by the people and for the people, and that
4 democracy reflects the engagement and leadership of all
5 generations and the premise that citizens can serve; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout the lifespan, service instills the
7 knowledge that citizenship brings responsibility and that
8 everyone has talents and skills to make their community a
9 better place; and

10 WHEREAS, Service brings opportunities for learning that
11 boost student success, focus on new skills for workers, and
12 embrace the gifts of older generations to address community
13 needs and bring a spirit of involvement; and

14 WHEREAS, Research by the Corporation for National and
15 Community Service, the federal agency that administers the
16 national service programs AmeriCorps and Senior Corps,
17 revealed that 27.4% of Illinoisans volunteered in 2012,
18 contributing 286,000,000 hours to the most pressing challenges
19 of communities; and

20 WHEREAS, Research by Generations Serving Generations, a
21 public/private partnership launched by the National Governors

1 Association Center for Best Practices, concluded that many
2 Illinoisans who do not volunteer would like to, but simply do
3 not know how to get connected to service opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, Generations Serving Generations and leaders from
5 AGING & RETIREE ORGANIZATIONS (The Illinois Department on
6 Aging, the Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Illinois
7 Municipal Retirement Fund), EDUCATION (Illinois Board of
8 Higher Education, the Illinois State Board of Education, the
9 Illinois Community College Board, the Council of Community
10 College Presidents, and the Illinois State Library), SERVICE
11 (the Serve Illinois Commission, the Corporation for National
12 and Community Service, and Illinois Campus Compact), BUSINESS
13 (Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce), FOUNDATIONS (Robert R.
14 McCormick Foundation and the Retirement Research Foundation),
15 and others, join together in supporting a Call to Service;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that it is in the interest
19 of the citizens of this State to strengthen the infrastructure
20 of volunteerism as a resource for meeting the challenges of
21 education, promoting healthy lifestyles for all ages, and
22 boosting the independence of older generations; and be it
23 further

1 RESOLVED, That by December 31, 2014, Generations Serving
2 Generations, in collaboration with the State leadership in
3 education, aging, service, and the private sector, will convene
4 a Senate Forum and prepare recommendations on strengthening the
5 infrastructure of volunteerism and national service; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That 2015 will be set as a Year of Service and
8 Civic Engagement, that will engage all generations as
9 participants, planners, organizers, and leaders of the
10 volunteer infrastructure.