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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Clyde Tombaugh, discoverer of the planet Pluto,
3 was born on a farm near the Illinois community of Streator; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Tombaugh served as a researcher at the
5 prestigious Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Tombaugh first detected the presence of Pluto
7 in 1930; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Tombaugh is the only Illinoisan and the only
9 American to ever discover a planet; and

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WHEREAS, For more than 75 years, Pluto was considered the
11 ninth planet of the Solar System; and

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WHEREAS, A spacecraft called New Horizons was launched in
13 January of 2006 to explore Pluto in 2015 with Dr. Tombaugh's
14 ashes aboard the spacecraft; and

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WHEREAS, Pluto has 5 moons: Charon, Nix, Hydra, Kerberos,
16 and Styx; and

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WHEREAS, Pluto's average orbit is more than 3 billion miles
18 from the sun; and

1 WHEREAS, Pluto was unfairly downgraded to a "dwarf" planet
2 in a vote in which only 4% of the International Astronomical
3 Union's 10,000 scientists participated; and

4 WHEREAS, Many respected astronomers believe Pluto's full
5 planetary status should be restored; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
8 urge the International Astronomical Union to restore Pluto to
9 full planetary status; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we declare 2015 as "The Year of Pluto" in
11 honor of Dr. Clyde Tombaugh and the discoveries to be made by
12 the New Horizons spacecraft; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 delivered to the International Astronomical Union.