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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, 50 years ago, in 1966, a tradition began among
3 families and friends in Southern Illinois after planting had
4 been completed and before harvest time rolled around, when they
5 would gather to camp and ride horses throughout all of the
6 trails in the area; and

7 WHEREAS, This family-oriented tradition has continued
8 today, and over 1,500 campers and 1,700 visitors now attend the
9 event every year with more and more people participating; the
10 tradition has spread to horseback trail riders throughout the
11 southern region of Illinois and the neighboring states; and

12 WHEREAS, This all volunteer event is conducted on private
13 ground in Pope County owned by the Francis Family, with trail
14 riding in the adjoining beauty of the Shawnee National Forest
15 managed by the United States Forest Service; and

16 WHEREAS, This tradition, now known as the Nine-Day Trail
17 Ride, has become an important event for the citizens of
18 Southern Illinois; various saddle clubs across the region have
19 come together to form the Associated Saddle Clubs of Illinois
20 in order to support the event; and

21 WHEREAS, The organizers of the Nine-Day Trail Ride in the

1 Shawnee National Forest enjoy a great working relationship with
2 many governmental entities that support the recreational
3 opportunities offered by the event, entities that include the
4 United States Forest Service, the Southeastern Illinois
5 Electric Cooperative, the Pope County Sheriff's Department,
6 the Hardin County Sheriff's Department, and the Pope County
7 Ambulance Association; and

8 WHEREAS, The Nine-Day Trail Ride annually contributes to
9 charitable organizations, including Wounded Warriors, the
10 American Cancer Society, and St. Jude Children's Hospital, by
11 organizing annual charity rides, auctions, and fundraisers,
12 where many items are donated by local businesses and
13 organizations throughout Southern Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, The Nine-Day Trail Ride draws thousands of
15 visitors every year to enjoy the recreational opportunities
16 offered by the Shawnee National Forest and the Nine-Day Trail
17 Ride Association, resulting in a significant economic boost to
18 the surrounding areas; and

19 WHEREAS, The Nine-Day Trail Ride in the Shawnee National
20 Forest is being celebrated from the last weekend of July
21 through the first weekend of August of 2016; it commemorates
22 the 50th anniversary of the Nine-Day Trail Ride; therefore, be
23 it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
3 recognize the Associated Saddle Clubs of Southern Illinois and
4 all of its members for its continued support of the Nine-Day
5 Trail Ride and in honor of the 50th anniversary; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the Associated Saddle Clubs of Southern Illinois
9 as an expression of our appreciation for its continued support
10 of a long-standing tradition in one of Illinois' most beautiful
11 natural treasures.