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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, 50 years ago, in 1966, a tradition began among  
3 family and friends in Southern Illinois after planting had been  
4 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 and  
8 today, over 1,500 campers and 1,700 visitors attend the event  
9 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 boost to the  
18 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 SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize the  
3 Associated Saddle Clubs of Southern Illinois and all of its  
4 members for its continued support of the Nine-Day Trail Ride  
5 and in honor of the 50th anniversary; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That we declare July 30, 2016 as "Nine-Day Trail  
7 Ride Day" in the State of Illinois; and be it further

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