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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Scottlynn Ballard, a junior at Edwardsville High School, on winning the Illinois Poetry Out Loud competition and being named runner-up of the Poetry Out Loud National competition in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Poetry Out Loud, a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the state arts agencies, is in its 14th year; students select, memorize, and recite poems from an anthology of more than 1,000 classic and contemporary poems; and

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WHEREAS, Scottlynn Ballard's journey through the Poetry Out Loud competition began earlier this year at Edwardsville High School, where she won the school competition; she then progressed to the Illinois state competition, where she was named the winner; and

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WHEREAS, Scottlynn Ballard continued through the competition as she traveled to Washington, D.C. on April 30 and competed against 52 representatives from other states; during the semi-final rounds on April 30, she was selected as one of the nine students to move on to compete in the semi-final and

1 final competition on May 1, 2019; after being named one of the
2 top three finalists from the semi-final round, she performed
3 one last time and recited "Worth" by Marilyn Nelson,
4 "Self-Help" by Michael Ryan, and "Ode" by Arthur O'Shaughnessy;
5 she was named runner-up after advancing through a field of more
6 than 275,000 participants nationwide; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we congratulate Scottlynn Ballard on winning the Illinois
10 Poetry Out Loud competition and being named runner-up of the
11 Poetry Out Loud National competition, and we wish her success
12 in her future endeavors; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to Scottlynn Ballard as an expression of our esteem
15 and respect.