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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Ronald Wilson Reagan "Dutch" (1911-2004), the
3 40th President of the United States, is the only U.S. President
4 born, raised, and educated in the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, President Reagan was born on February 6, 1911 in
6 Tampico; his family lived for a time in Chicago, Galesburg, and
7 Monmouth, before settling in Dixon; he earned his degree in
8 economics and sociology from Eureka College in Central Illinois
9 in 1932; after college, he started as a radio sports announcer
10 in the Quad Cities; and

11 WHEREAS, President Reagan moved to Hollywood and achieved
12 success as a film and television actor, union president for the
13 Screen Actors Guild, and as corporate spokesman for General
14 Electric; he moved into politics and spent two terms as
15 Governor of California (1967-1975) and two terms as President
16 of the United States (1981-1989); and

17 WHEREAS, President Reagan returned to his home State
18 throughout every stage of his life; he visited his birthplace,
19 his hometown, and his alma mater, Eureka College; he never
20 forgot his Illinois and Midwestern roots; and

21 WHEREAS, President Reagan's connection to Illinois is

1 celebrated all over the State; Eureka College is home to
2 "Reagan Forward" and the Ronald W. Reagan Society, whose
3 national membership helps fund scholarships for Reagan
4 Fellows, a museum, a peace garden, a speaker series, a Run with
5 Reagan 5k, and the Mark R. Shenkman Reagan Research Center,
6 housing every book on the 40th President; Dixon is home to the
7 Reagan Boyhood Home and the Dixon Historic Center, a riverfront
8 statue of him on a horse, the First Christian Church where he
9 was baptized, an annual festival, and the beach at Lowell Park
10 where he was a lifeguard; Tampico operates a museum and
11 historic site where visitors can stand in the apartment flat
12 where he was born and see a statue of him as a boy; a section of
13 Interstate 88 is named in his honor, and The Reagan Trail is a
14 designated tourism corridor connecting key points of his
15 Illinois experience; and

16 WHEREAS, President Reagan is remembered as one of the most
17 consequential world leaders of the 20th century; his commitment
18 to peace through strength helped in the defeat of the Soviet
19 Union, thus ending the Cold War and bringing greater freedom to
20 millions of people; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
22 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
23 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we recognize and honor the
24 impact President Ronald Reagan had on the State, the country,

1 and the world; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we request that the Architect of the Capitol
3 place a statue of President Reagan in the Illinois State
4 Capitol Building or on the surrounding grounds; and be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That the statue shall be funded with private
7 donations; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
9 presented to the Architect of the Capitol.