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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Northern Illinois University's (NIU) live mascot,
3 Mission, is an essential member of the NIU community; he
4 assumed the role of the school's official mascot in 2013, and
5 since then, he has embodied the spirit of the school; he has a
6 multitude of accomplishments, ranging from being a best in show
7 winner to his duties at NIU; and

8 WHEREAS, Mission has a variety of titles and achievements
9 outside of being a mascot, which is a testament to his breed
10 and training; his titles include Canine Good Citizen and Rally
11 Novice by the American Kennel Club, and he successfully passed
12 the Socialized Pet Obedience Test offered by the United Kennel
13 Club; he is a three-time Best in Show winner, and comments on
14 his performances note that he is a breath of fresh air, mainly
15 because he defies the stereotype of stubbornness that is
16 associated with his breed; and

17 WHEREAS, Mission is a certified support animal, a therapy
18 dog, and a member of Helping Paws at Kishwaukee Hospital; he
19 also makes visits to nursing homes; and

20 WHEREAS, Along with many significant accomplishments
21 outside of NIU, Mission has many accomplishments with NIU;
22 every Monday, he visits various buildings and colleges around

1 campus while connecting with the students, faculty, and staff;
2 he has helped NIU's marching band by attending their Red &
3 Black Fall Classic and other events; he supports the NIU
4 athletic community and attends many sporting events and travels
5 with the NIU football team; he has been to both Nashville and
6 the MAC Championships; and

7 WHEREAS, Mission continues to break new barriers at NIU;
8 other animals do not have access to specific buildings at NIU,
9 but Mission does because he is well-behaved; he has even been
10 able to have access to NIU's Pick Museum of Anthropology; and

11 WHEREAS, Mission plays a vital role in NIU's ROTC program;
12 a program called "Mission Support" allows cadets to accompany
13 him to his appearances and show huskie pride around the school;
14 within this program, Mission is decorated with the rank of
15 colonel; and

16 WHEREAS, Mission is a significant part of NIU's identity
17 and an iconic representation of the school and its values;
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
21 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge that Mission be
22 recognized as an honorary service animal by the Secretary of

1 State and be eligible for entrance into the Illinois Capitol
2 Building on Northern Illinois University's annual Advocacy
3 Day; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 delivered to the Secretary of State.