

## 1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly are  
3 proud to recognize organizations in Illinois that contribute  
4 to the improvement and maintenance of our natural resources;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, It has come to our attention that the Shabbona  
7 Lake Sportsman Club is celebrating its 20th anniversary on  
8 May 4, 2002; and

9 WHEREAS, The Sportsman Club has received numerous awards  
10 and citations over the last twenty years, including twice  
11 being recognized by the Illinois Department of Natural  
12 Resources for special projects; the Club has also been  
13 featured in many newspaper and fishing magazine articles; and

14 WHEREAS, Shabbona Lake was built in the early 1970s; it  
15 is a 318 acre manmade impoundment located halfway between  
16 Rockford and Chicago; Shabbona Lake draws about 400,000  
17 visitors a year and has produced 4 State of Illinois Record  
18 Muskies, giving the lake its nickname, "Muskie Capitol of  
19 Illinois"; and

20 WHEREAS, The Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club is the only  
21 fishing and hunting Club in the United States that was formed  
22 for the sole purpose of helping a State Park; in May, 1982,  
23 the superintendent at Shabbona Lake State Park asked local  
24 fishermen to meet with him to discuss volunteerism to keep  
25 the park open during a time of financial crisis in Illinois;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, From the approximately thirty fisherman and  
28 hunters that originally formed the Shabbona Lake Sportsman  
29 Club, a membership of about 100 has held steady over the past  
30 twenty years; and

31 WHEREAS, The members of the Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club

1 have volunteered their time and effort to make Shabbona Lake  
2 a better fishery not only for themselves, but also for the  
3 thousands of visitors to the park; some of their many  
4 accomplishments include building a Walleye Rearing pond on  
5 site, which was duplicated by many other state parks later,  
6 establishing a Reward program to report poachers or violators  
7 of fish and game laws, another concept duplicated in  
8 Illinois, called "Poacher's Hotline", and coordinating youth  
9 fishing clinics, which led to the first ever Youth Fishing  
10 League, complete with teams, trophies, and prizes; the  
11 Sportsman Club also assisted with handicapped fisherman, both  
12 young and old; and

13 WHEREAS, The Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club has raised  
14 several thousand dollars and received various grants to fund  
15 improvements on the lake; the members have coordinated and  
16 volunteered much of their time to ensure that there will  
17 always be good fishing at Shabbona Lake; and

18 WHEREAS, For their exceptional volunteer efforts, the  
19 members of the Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club were recognized  
20 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and received  
21 the "Outstanding Volunteers of the Year Award" in 1999 and  
22 2001; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
24 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
25 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we congratulate the members of  
26 the Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club for their outstanding  
27 volunteer services and the fine examples they have set for  
28 sportsmen and communities across Illinois; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
30 presented to the Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club as an  
31 expression of our esteem.