



HR0449

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Neurological disorders such as Huntington's
3 Disease have social and economic impacts on both those affected
4 and their families; and

5 WHEREAS, Each year, numerous Illinoisans are diagnosed
6 with neurological disorders; and

7 WHEREAS, The fourth annual Stars of Hope Walk is being held
8 on June 17, 2017 at Oak Ridge Park in Washington, Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, The Stars of Hope Walk benefits patients and
10 families affected by Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's
11 Disease, Multiple System Atrophy, and other neurological
12 disorders; it includes a two-mile walk, live music,
13 family-friendly activities, a free lunch, and more; and

14 WHEREAS, Thousands of families, friends, co-workers, and
15 neighbors come together each year to support three main
16 objectives: find cures for neurodegenerative diseases, bring
17 together people affected by the diseases, and raise awareness
18 and provide education; and

19 WHEREAS, The Stars of Hope Walk has raised over \$300,000
20 since its inception three years ago; originally known as the

1 Central Illinois Team Hope Walk, it was started by Carl and
2 Linda Ross and Hans and Kelly Ritter in 2014 to raise awareness
3 of Huntington's Disease, support efforts toward finding a cure,
4 and to provide an opportunity for those affected to come
5 together; and

6 WHEREAS, These two families have been personally affected
7 by Huntington's Disease, a genetic and fatal disorder that
8 causes a progressive breakdown of nerve cells in the brain;
9 Kelly Ritter's two older sisters and Carl Ross's daughters,
10 Laura and Lisa, were diagnosed with the disease; Lisa passed
11 away earlier this year, and their mother passed away in 1999,
12 both from complications of Huntington's Disease; and

13 WHEREAS, These two families banded together and started the
14 walk in 2014 with proceeds going to the OSF Foundation and the
15 Illinois Neurological Institute to support local patients and
16 families; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
18 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 congratulate the organizers of the Stars of Hope Walk for its
20 past success, and offer our support to help find a cure for
21 Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and other
22 neurological disorders; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 presented to the organizers of the Stars of Hope Walk, Carl and
3 Linda Ross, and Hans and Kelly Ritter, as an expression of our
4 esteem and respect.