



HR0019

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Tom Meents on his numerous
4 distinguished accomplishments during his career as a monster
5 truck driver; and

6 WHEREAS, Tom Meents was born on July 10, 1967 in Paxton and
7 is a 1985 graduate of Paxton High School, where he was a member
8 of Paxton's 1984 Class 2A state runner-up football team and FFA
9 (Future Farmers of America); and

10 WHEREAS, Tom Meents took multiple power mechanics,
11 welding, and shop classes at Paxton High School, and, after
12 graduation, he worked as a mechanic at a dealership in Rantoul;
13 in his free time, he worked on a racing truck and raced the
14 truck on the weekends, dubbing the truck Shake Me; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1988, Tom Meents participated in his first
16 televised event, a mud-racing event in Pittsburgh put on by the
17 United States Hot Rod Association (USHRA) and nationally
18 broadcast on ESPN2, where he ran the second-quickest time; and

19 WHEREAS, Tom Meents won the National Mud Racing
20 Organization's (NMRO) Open Class Championship in 1992; after
21 teaming up with Paul Shafer, he won NMRO's Class 5 championship

1 in 1993 and 1994 and the Class 6 championship in 1993; in 1997,
2 he earned a victory in the USHRA Truck Fest; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1999, Tom Meents was commissioned by PACE Motor
4 Sports to drive their monster truck named Bulldozer; in his
5 first ever event driving Bulldozer, he won his race on national
6 television; and

7 WHEREAS, Tom Meents was commissioned to drive a new truck
8 in 2000 named Goldberg, with which he won the inaugural Monster
9 Jam World Finals and completed a full sweep of the event in
10 both 2001 and 2002; the truck was given an overhaul and renamed
11 Maximum Destruction in 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, Tom Meents has won 11 Monster Jam World Finals
13 championships, including six in racing and five in freestyle;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to racing, Tom Meents has accomplished
16 several firsts in Maximum Destruction, including the first
17 person to attempt a backflip in a monster truck, the first
18 person to complete a double backflip, and the first to land a
19 front-flip in a monster truck; and

20 WHEREAS, Tom Meents continues to race today, pursuing his
21 12th Monster Jam Finals title; and

1 WHEREAS, Tom Meents has two sons who also race, and he is a
2 proud member of the Paxton community; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
4 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
5 we congratulate Tom Meents on his extensive accomplishments and
6 the dedication he exhibits towards his sport, and we commend
7 him for his lifelong support of his community; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Tom Meents as a symbol of our respect and esteem.