



HR0662

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Bowlers to Veterans Link (BVL) is a national  
3 nonprofit charity that supports America's veterans and active  
4 duty service men and woman through recreational therapy  
5 programs and services to speed recuperation and boost morale to  
6 brighten their lives; and

7           WHEREAS, BVL was founded in 1942 and is the sport of  
8 bowling's oldest charity; it is also the sport's most  
9 successful charity, raising over \$50 million dollars, which  
10 provides non-government funded extras to support veterans and  
11 active duty service men and women; BVL's first campaign during  
12 World War II raised money to purchase medical evacuation planes  
13 to ferry the wounded home from the battlefields of Europe; and

14           WHEREAS, BVL's annual tournament was first introduced in  
15 the spring of 1946 when U.S. troops were returning home from  
16 the battlefields of Europe and Asia, and the country was  
17 anxious to turn the corner from war; there were celebrations  
18 across the land, but one celebration was truly a celebration of  
19 spirit, involving wounded veterans receiving care at the  
20 growing network of VA Medical Centers; it was a celebration of  
21 triumph over tragedy as they struggled to return to a sport  
22 they once enjoyed; the competition, the annual Bowlers to  
23 Veterans Link/Department of Veterans Affairs Bowling

1 Tournament, now marks its 73rd year; and

2 WHEREAS, BVL also supported the dependents of those killed  
3 during Operation Desert Storm with academic scholarships for  
4 college, and BVL has shipped more than 550 portable carpet  
5 bowling lane kits to active duty troops in Iraq, Afghanistan,  
6 and numerous other locales, including to the USS Enterprise and  
7 the USS Ronald Reagan; and

8 WHEREAS, The BVL annual tournament is a great opportunity  
9 for VA patients to be involved in a healthy, active leisure  
10 interest while addressing their goals and applying or learning  
11 needed skills which improve their quality of life; and

12 WHEREAS, BVL grants provide arts and crafts, music and  
13 sport activities, reading materials, board games, and much more  
14 to help boost the spirits, speed the recuperation, and improve  
15 the morale of military personnel and veterans; it also supports  
16 veterans recuperating in VA medical centers, VET centers, and  
17 state veteran homes; and

18 WHEREAS, BVL responds to veterans in need, recuperating  
19 veterans, veterans suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress  
20 Disorder), and aging veterans, giving them an outlet for the  
21 joy, freedom, and friendship that recreation and sport can  
22 bring; and

1           WHEREAS, BVL is a member of the National Veterans Day  
2 Organizing Committee and the Department of Veterans Affairs  
3 Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee; it is part of  
4 the America Supports You network coordinated by the Pentagon;  
5 BVL is the winner of the Department of Veterans Affairs Award  
6 for Excellence, and BVL representatives have won the  
7 Secretary's Award, the highest honor from the VA; BVL is the  
8 recipient of the International Bowling Hall of Fame and  
9 Museum's 20th Century Award; BVL is touted as a "major industry  
10 success" and has won the Bowling Writers of America John O.  
11 Martino Award for Outstanding Contributions to Bowling; and

12           WHEREAS, Measured against other charities, BVL prides  
13 itself on one of the lowest overhead percentages at just 6%,  
14 maintaining their commitment to insure that America's veterans  
15 are the recipients of the most funds possible; and

16           WHEREAS, BVL is America's only national sports  
17 organization specifically devoted to those who have served our  
18 country; and

19           WHEREAS, BVL has received the Best in America seal of  
20 approval by America's Best Charities; therefore, be it

21           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
2 we recognize the commitment to our military personnel and  
3 veterans made by The Bowlers to Veterans Link, and we wish them  
4 many more successful years; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to BVL as an expression of our esteem and respect.