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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the General Assembly
3 pays honor and respect to those individuals who have
4 contributed to the success of their community, the State, and
5 to the efforts to cure childhood cancers and other pediatric
6 diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, Beginning in 2001, Roger and Regina Landon of
8 Chandlerville have organized numerous horse trail rides at the
9 Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area each June
10 to raise money for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Since 2001, horse enthusiasts from all over
13 Central Illinois have been attending the Saddle-Up for St. Jude
14 event to raise money for children diagnosed with cancer and
15 other pediatric diseases that are being treated at St. Jude's;
16 since 2001, a total of \$730,000 has been raised at these events
17 benefiting the children at St. Jude's Hospital; and

18 WHEREAS, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, located
19 in Memphis, Tennessee, treats children with cancer and other
20 pediatric diseases at no cost to the patients; research efforts
21 are directed at understanding the molecular, genetic, and
22 chemical basis of catastrophic diseases in children,

1 identifying cures for such diseases, and promoting their
2 prevention; research is focused specifically on cancers,
3 acquired and inherited immunodeficiency disorders, sickle cell
4 disease, infectious diseases, and genetic disorders; and

5 WHEREAS, Roger and Regina established these trail rides at
6 Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife area to
7 highlight the beautiful facets of nature found at this wildlife
8 area, to raise funds for the worthy cause of St. Jude's
9 Children's Research Hospital, to bring horse and fish
10 enthusiasts together to enjoy the trails of this wildlife area,
11 and to encourage camping at the area; and

12 WHEREAS, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital is
13 associated with Children's Hospital of Illinois, located in
14 Peoria; and

15 WHEREAS, It is estimated to cost nearly \$1 billion to
16 operate St. Jude's this year, with the majority of those funds
17 coming from generous donors; and

18 WHEREAS, Roger and Regina Landon started Saddle Up for St.
19 Jude's in 2001; their initial goal was to be more successful
20 than other Saddle Up fundraisers in Illinois, which then
21 averaged \$3,500; for the first benefit, they acquired donations
22 for the meat to be served, the side dishes, paper products, and

1 the evening entertainment bands; the event had Sponsorship
2 Tickets, where each ticket cost \$100 and produced a winner for
3 every 20 sold; 1st place won a Browning Silver shotgun, and the
4 next winner won \$400; raffle tickets for half a beef and cash
5 prizes were also sold; during the weekend of the event, there
6 was a silent auction, which usually generated a great deal of
7 the proceeds, with all the items donated by generous friends
8 and acquaintances; St. Jude's received \$10,000 after the first
9 benefit, and \$14,000 after the second year, with the amount
10 increasing each year to over \$55,000 last year; St. Jude's has
11 received a total of \$730,000, and the goal of this year's
12 benefit is to top one million dollars; this benefit is
13 well-attended, not only by horse enthusiasts but also by
14 interested individuals interested in supporting St. Jude's;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 2012, Roger Landon received the Special Event
17 Coordinator of the Year from St. Jude's, which coincided with
18 the 50th anniversary for St. Jude's Children's Research
19 Hospital (1962-2012); Roger and Regina attended the awards
20 recognition program in Memphis, Tennessee; and

21 WHEREAS, Roger and Regina Landon are personally interested
22 in the Jim Edgar Panther Creek Equestrian Park, not only
23 because of it being the location for the St. Jude's benefit but
24 also for their desire to keep the park beautiful and enticing

1 for everyone to visit and camp; they have initiated taking care
2 of the flower gardens, each year pruning and replanting shrubs
3 and flowers as needed and purchasing mulch to beautify the
4 gardens; and

5 WHEREAS, Roger and Regina Landon enjoy meeting new camp
6 hosts and assisting them as they settle in their positions;
7 they have a knack for making them feel comfortable with their
8 new environment and duties; often, a different camp host is
9 accepted for the position each year; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
12 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the equestrian campground
13 within the Jim Edgar Panther Creek State Fish and Wildlife Area
14 in Chandlerville as the "Landon Equestrian Campground"; and be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Department of Natural Resources is
17 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State
18 and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving
19 notice of the name "Landon Equestrian Campground"; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That we commend Roger and Regina Landon on their
22 distinguished volunteerism and their lifelong dedication to

1 the people of Illinois and to preserving the natural fish and
2 wildlife areas of Illinois; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
4 presented to the Director of Natural Resources and Roger and
5 Regina Landon.