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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois wish to congratulate the Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD) on the occasion of its 75th anniversary; and

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WHEREAS, The IAPD was established on May 17, 1928; it provides education, research, and advocacy for its 362 members, consisting of 279 park districts, eight forest preserve districts, four conservation districts, one conservancy district, 35 city agencies, one State agency (the Department of Natural Resources), and 34 associate members in the allied fields of law, landscape architecture, and public finance; and

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WHEREAS, The mission of IAPD is to advance its members in their ability to provide outstanding park and recreation opportunities, preserve our natural resources, and improve the quality of life for all people in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The IAPD is the oldest statewide association of its kind in the country; it is the only park association with a primary membership of elected board members who serve without compensation on local park and forest preserve boards; its member agencies and their staffs are nationally recognized leaders in parks and recreation and have won the National Gold Medal Award more times than any other state; and

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WHEREAS, A.D. McLarty of Springfield is credited as the association's organizer; in 1928, he was secretary of the Illinois Municipal League and believed an association dedicated to park districts would further the cause of public parks and recreation in Illinois; he became IAPD's first secretary; and

1 WHEREAS, Early legislation addressed by the association
2 sought to establish uniform laws for organizing park
3 districts and the powers of elected officials, establish the
4 powers of park districts for acquiring land for open space
5 and public parks and recreation, and address liability
6 issues; over the years, the association has worked in
7 bipartisan partnership with its legislative leaders in
8 Illinois and Washington, D.C. to secure funding for open
9 space, outdoor recreation, wildlife preservation, senior
10 health interests, and after-school recreation and nutrition
11 programs for youth; and

12 WHEREAS, As a grass-roots organization, with its 2,100
13 elected officials and more than 300 park and forest preserve
14 agency leaders, IAPD's voice for parks and natural resources
15 is strong and respected; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we congratulate the Illinois Association of Park Districts on
19 celebrating its 75th anniversary; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to Dennis Flanagan, chairman of the Illinois
22 Association of Park Districts for 2003.