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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The General Assembly takes pride in recognizing  
3 the accomplishments and contributions of Illinois citizens;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, J. Garrett Tolan was a visionary and pioneer of  
6 the Angus breed of cattle; and

7           WHEREAS, J. Garrett Tolan was a President of the American  
8 Angus Association and an inductee into the National Cattlemen's  
9 Hall of Fame; and

10           WHEREAS, J. Garrett Tolan's son John J. Tolan began working  
11 in the family business of breeding Angus show cattle before he  
12 started elementary school; and

13           WHEREAS, As a young teen, John J. Tolan received a national  
14 award, sponsored by Firestone Rubber Company, which recognized  
15 the most promising agricultural youth in the country; and

16           WHEREAS, J. Garrett Tolan's son John J. Tolan was a master  
17 breeder of multiple breeds of horses and cattle, but will  
18 likely be best remembered for his influence on the Angus cattle  
19 business; and

1           WHEREAS, The cattle and show circuit were John's life, and  
2 each year the main focus was to do well at the Chicago  
3 International, the world's premiere show for Angus cattle; and

4           WHEREAS, At the Chicago International, Tolan Farms showed  
5 102 class winners and 85 Champions, bred 15 International Grand  
6 Champions, and exhibited 10 Best Ten Head groups; and

7           WHEREAS, The Tolan career record for Angus at all shows  
8 totaled 845 class winners and 385 Champions; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1951, Tolan Farms set a world record sale,  
10 which was the record sales price per head not only for Angus  
11 cattle, but also for livestock of any description, including  
12 Thoroughbred racehorses; and

13           WHEREAS, John J. Tolan served as a Director of the American  
14 Angus Association for 6 years; and

15           WHEREAS, John J. Tolan received many national honors and  
16 was voted by his peers as the number one breeder/judge of Angus  
17 cattle in the nation for 4 consecutive years; and

18           WHEREAS, John J. Tolan exhibited and judged Angus cattle at  
19 nearly every top tier show in North America; and

1           WHEREAS, John J. Tolan exhibited world and national  
2 champions of countless breeds and raced quarter horses and  
3 thoroughbreds for decades; and

4           WHEREAS, John J. Tolan could evaluate an animal's  
5 conformation in a split second and possessed a nearly  
6 photographic memory for both livestock and pedigrees; and

7           WHEREAS, John J. Tolan always loved that the livestock  
8 industry afforded one the opportunity to do business with and  
9 become friends with many interesting people; and

10           WHEREAS, Although John was widely viewed as a master  
11 breeder of livestock and was highly regarded, he was a modest  
12 man that deflected most praise that came his way; and

13           WHEREAS, The Tolans' immense contribution to Illinois  
14 agriculture and the development of Angus cattle should be  
15 recognized, and they deserve to have their achievements noted  
16 and remembered by current and future generations; therefore, be  
17 it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
19 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
20 we designate Barn 13 at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in  
21 Springfield as the J. Garrett and John J. Tolan Barn in

1 recognition of the contributions of J. Garrett and John Tolan  
2 to agriculture in the State; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
4 presented to the Director of Agriculture and the Director of  
5 Central Management Services.