



*WHEREAS, stewardship of the land, service to others, and volunteering in one's community are hallmarks of character and excellence; and,*

*WHEREAS, heroism can be defined as everyday people who step up to do extraordinary things; and,*

*WHEREAS, one such hero is Chad Pregracke of East Moline, Illinois; and,*

*WHEREAS, Living Lands & Waters, the organization Chad Pregracke founded in 1998, has recruited 70,000 volunteers, and removed 7,000,000 pounds of debris from 23 waterways, including the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio Rivers; and,*

*WHEREAS, Chad Pregracke and his crew spent nine months a year living and working on boats while organizing volunteers to perform river clean-ups, invasive species removal and one-half million tree plantings; and*

*WHEREAS, Chad Pregracke personifies stewardship of our rivers, a "roll-up-your-sleeves" tenacity and the volunteer spirit that makes Illinois special; and,*

*WHEREAS, Chad Pregracke is a model for the 3,000 AmeriCorps members serving in Illinois, and embodies the mission of the Serve Illinois Commission which is to improve Illinois communities by enhancing volunteerism and instilling an ethic of service; and,*

*WHEREAS, Chad Pregracke is teaching the value of stewardship to a younger generation by turning his barges into "floating classrooms" and sponsoring an "Alternative Spring Break" program; and,*

*WHEREAS, Chad Pregracke has authored "From the Bottom Up: One Man's Crusade to Clean America's Rivers," to tell his inspirational story, encourage individuals to positive action, and help connect us all to the need for clean water; and,*

*WHEREAS, following a global election process, Chad Pregracke will be honored as "CNN's Hero of the Year" during an All-Star Tribute hosted by Anderson Cooper which will air on Sunday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m.; and,*

*WHEREAS, in an extraordinary act of generosity, Chad Pregracke will share part of his CNN prize with each of the nine other "CNN Heroes" finalists; and,*

*THEREFORE, I Pat Quinn, Governor of the state of Illinois, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2013 as CHAD PREGRACKE DAY in Illinois in recognition of his community volunteerism and leadership throughout our state.*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*  
*this* TWENTY-SEVENTH *day of* NOVEMBER, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*  
THIRTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*  
*one hundred and* NINETY-FIFTH.

*Desse White*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*  
GOVERNOR