



WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout our history citizens have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, the current economic conditions mean more Americans are facing hardships, and volunteering and national service are needed more than ever; and,

WHEREAS, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds to meet a wide range of community needs by promoting the ethic of service and volunteerism since its creation in 1994; and ,

WHEREAS, each year AmeriCorps programs, including AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC, provide opportunities for 75,000 citizens across the nation, including approximately 3,600 in Illinois, to give back in an intensive way to our communities, our state, and our country; and,

WHEREAS, more than 800,000 men and women across the nation, including more than 30,000 from Illinois, have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done" since 1994; and,

WHEREAS, those AmeriCorps Members have served a total of more than 1 billion hours nationwide, including more than 37 million served by residents from Illinois; which equates to more than \$842.5 million in impact for Illinois, by helping improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members serve with more than 14,000 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide; including more than 800 in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Members in Illinois last year recruited over 19,000 volunteers, tutored or mentored more than 112,000 disadvantaged children, provided more than 1.3 million hours of service valued at nearly \$30 million, and helped to leverage more than \$14 million in cash and in-kind resources; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Illinois have earned more than \$93.8 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans since 1994; and ,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and ,

WHEREAS, the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and the Corporation for National and Community Service play a key role in determining where AmeriCorps resources should be directed to meet state and local needs; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week, March 9-17, 2013, is an opportune time for the people of Illinois to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their service; thank AmeriCorps' community partners; and bring more Americans into service; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 9-17, 2013 as **AMERICORPS WEEK** in Illinois, and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service and to find ways to give back to their communities at www.Serve.Illinois.gov.

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 FIFTH *day of* MARCH *, in*

the Year of Our Lord two thousand and

THIRTEEN *, and of the State of Illinois*

the one hundred and NINETY-FIFTH

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR