**PUBLIC PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS,** the Scouting movement was established in England by Sir Robert Baden Powell in 1908, and

**WHEREAS,** Scouting is an international movement involving more than 31 million young people in 216 nations around the world, and

**WHEREAS,** the Boy Scouts of America is part of the global Scouting movement and a member of the World Order of the Scouting Movement, and

**WHEREAS,** newspaper publisher William Dickson Boyce is credited with bringing Scouting to America in 1910, and

**WHEREAS,** William Dickson Boyce had a home in Ottawa, Illinois, and

**WHEREAS,** Scouting has been a part of Central Illinois since the 1920s, and

**WHEREAS,** in 1973, the Corn Belt Council, Creve Coeur Council and Starved Rock Councils merged to form the W. D. Boyce Council, and

**WHEREAS,** the W. D. Boyce Council encompasses all or part of 14 counties in Central Illinois, and

**WHEREAS,** Scouting in America includes Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts and Exploring and Learning for Life, and

**WHEREAS,** the W. D. Boyce Council serves nearly 5,000 youth and 1,800 adult volunteers in 187 units, and

**WHEREAS,** the Scouting program is delivered through partnerships with community organizations, and

**WHEREAS,** the Scout Oath and Scout Law serve as a roadmap for a life of good citizenship, personal fitness and leadership, and

**WHEREAS,** Scouting constitutes one of the most wholesome, respected and consequential youth organization in the history of America,

**NOW THEREFORE** I (NAME AND AUTHORITY), do hereby recognize the 50th Anniversary of the W. D. Boyce Council and declare the (WEEK OR MONTH) of (DATE OR DATES) to be

**W. D. BOYCE COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (WEEK OR MONTH)**

and encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate the leadership and service provided by Scouts in Central Illinois for the past 50-plus years.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Seal of (PLACE) this (DATE) day of (MONTH), 2022 or 2023.