

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, composed largely of gas and plasma, stars are cosmic energy engines that produce heat and light; and,

WHEREAS, though the number of stars in existence is unknown, our universe likely contains more than 100 billion galaxies, with each galaxy possibly having more than 100 billion stars; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 3,000 stars are revealed to the human eye on a clear night; and,

WHEREAS, these stars have provided the foundation for some of the oldest hobbies in the World, including stargazing and the natural science of astronomy, and ancient stories have been developed from their constellations; and,

WHEREAS, stargazing and astronomy have faced obstacles over the last century with the emergence of new technologies in developed societies; and,

WHEREAS, light pollution is excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial light that interferes with astronomical observations; and,

WHEREAS, light pollution, which limits starlight, is an increasing concern as developed communities rely more heavily on artificial light to illuminate their streets, parking lots and parks; and,

WHEREAS, in order to reduce light pollution and reveal the night sky, citizens and businesses in Illinois are encouraged to voluntarily turn off unnecessary lighting during August 9-16, the week when the Perseid Meteor Shower will take place, in order to enjoy the natural entertainment and beauty of our stars; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim August 9-16, 2014 as STARLIGHT WEEK in Illinois, in celebration of the beauty of the stars and bringing back starlight.

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 FOURTEENTH *day of* APRIL, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
FOURTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*
one hundred and NINETY-SIXTH.

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn

GOVERNOR