

Governor Quinn Joins Nationwide Effort to Recognize Impact of National Service

Written by Erin Wilson

Wednesday, 10 April 2013 08:52

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Illinois #1 in the Nation for Most “Cities of Service” and #1 Among the Nation’s 10 Largest States for Volunteer Rate

CHICAGO – Governor Pat Quinn today saluted the efforts of more than 600 mayors across the country for the first-ever Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service. Today’s action is part of Governor Quinn’s agenda to strengthen communities across Illinois. This commemorative day is a nationwide bipartisan effort to highlight the impact of national service in tackling municipal problems.

“Service to others is the rent we pay on God’s earth,” Governor Quinn said. “AmeriCorps members, Senior Corps participants and all other national service volunteers have a positive and lasting impact, making Illinois a better place to live. Illinois is grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these individuals who represent Americans at their best.”

Thanks to the Governor’s Serve Illinois Commission and its many partners across the state, Illinois continues to be a leader in service. According to the latest Volunteering and Civic Life in America (VCLA) report, Illinois has the highest volunteer rate—27.2% of residents—among the nation’s 10 largest states.

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“Illinoisans possess a deep-seated ethic of service,” Brandon Bodor, executive director of the Serve Illinois Commission said. “Across ages, abilities, backgrounds and interests, volunteerism makes us more resilient as individuals, as communities and as a state. The benefits of service are more than just social – last year’s Illinois volunteerism was valued at over \$8 billion.”

The outreach efforts of the 40 governor-appointed Serve Illinois Commissioners have also propelled Illinois to #1 in the nation’s Cities of Service rankings. Cities of Service, a co-sponsor of the April 9 Mayors Day of Recognition, is a national coalition of mayors committed to using volunteerism as a viable tool to achieve measurable impact on pressing local issues. Illinois leads the nation with 25 such cities.

The Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is a way to recognize the positive impact of national service in cities, to thank those who serve and to encourage citizens to give back to their communities. The day is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the National League of Cities and Cities of Service.

Across the country, mayors are participating in a variety of activities including visiting national service programs, hosting roundtables at their respective city halls, issuing proclamations and communicating about national service through social media. By shining the spotlight on the impact of service and thanking those who serve, mayors hope to inspire more residents to get involved in their communities.

Current list of Illinois Participants in Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service:

Rahm Emanuel – Chicago

Vivian E. Covington – University Park

Frederic Brereton – Belvidere

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Keith Snyder – Lincoln

Lawrence Morrissey – Rockford

David Kaptain – Elgin

Bill McLeod – Hoffman Estates

Rick Reinbold – Richton Park

Bill Wilkey – Dwight

Scott Punke – Eureka

John Mohr – Lexington

Bob Russell - Pontiac

Arlene J. Mulder – Arlington Heights

Terry Weppeler – Libertyville

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Steve Stockton – Bloomington

Chris Koos - Normal

Joel Fritzler – Carbondale

George Gaulrapp – Freeport

Nina Epstein – Kankakee

Donald Corrie – Chenoa

Ron Mool – El Paso

Bob Webster – Lacon

John Heinz – Metamora

Bob Huschen - Roanoke

For more information on the Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, including background and a list of participating mayors, please visit nationalservice.gov/mayorsforservice

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For more information on the Serve Illinois Commission, please visit serve.illinois.gov .

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