

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 232

Reps. Markkanen and Prestin offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge the Michigan Department of Natural  
2 Resources and the Natural Resources Commission to declare the  
3 Houghton-Douglass Falls as the Houghton-Douglass Falls Veterans  
4 Scenic Site, a unit of McLain State Park.

5           Whereas, The Houghton-Douglass Falls, located in northern  
6 Houghton County, is Michigan's tallest waterfall, cascading an  
7 impressive 110 feet from top to bottom. The waterfall discharges  
8 into the scenic Hammell Creek gorge, which is flanked by high rock  
9 walls and mixed stands of cedars, spruce, and pines. In addition to  
10 being regarded as one of the state's most picturesque sites, the  
11 falls are also a site of state historical and cultural  
12 significance; and

13           Whereas, The waterfall was named in honor of Douglass

1 Houghton, who was Michigan's first state geologist, and his cousin  
2 Columbus Douglass. Houghton and Douglass worked together on  
3 geologic copper and iron ore surveys and exploration of the Upper  
4 Peninsula. The waterfall was historically a popular place for  
5 locals to visit, but concerns surrounding safety and overuse  
6 eventually led to the closure of public access; and

7       Whereas, In 2018, a 70-acre parcel comprised of the Houghton-  
8 Douglass Falls and the surrounding land was acquired by the  
9 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with a Natural Resources  
10 Trust Fund grant. The DNR purchased the property with the intention  
11 of preserving the site's natural beauty and eventually reopening  
12 the site to the public as a recreational park. The previous owner,  
13 who is a Vietnam veteran, graciously agreed to sell the property to  
14 the DNR with the understanding that the site would be dedicated to  
15 all the brave and courageous individuals who have served in the  
16 military, especially those who continue to suffer from the  
17 lingering effects of their experiences. Later that year, the DNR  
18 dedicated the Houghton-Douglass Falls as a Veterans Memorial Park;  
19 and

20       Whereas, Michigan's State Parks and Scenic Areas include some  
21 of the state's most iconic and beautiful areas, serving to preserve  
22 and protect the state's most significant natural and historic  
23 resources and provide recreational opportunities for visitors.  
24 These areas help enhance the social, economic, and environmental  
25 well-being of the communities surrounding them. For these reasons  
26 and reasons stated above, the Houghton-Douglass Falls would be a  
27 valuable and worthwhile addition to Michigan's system of State  
28 Parks and Scenic Areas; now, therefore, be it

29       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the

1 Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources  
2 Commission to declare the Houghton-Douglass Falls as the Houghton-  
3 Douglass Falls Veterans Scenic Site, a unit of McLain State Park;  
4 and be it further

5       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
6 Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the  
7 members of the Natural Resources Commission.