

# Proclamation



- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts exhibited a love and passion for animals and a drive to care for them from the time he was seven years old; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts began working as a junior recreation leader in the Chicago Park District’s “*After School Matters*” program at the age of thirteen, attended the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, and continued as a recreation leader until the age of twenty; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pre-Veterinary Medicine from Illinois State University in 2016 and a Master of Science Degree from Eastern Illinois University in 2018; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts served as Assistant Farm Manager, Assistant Dean with the Historically Black Council, and Executive Board Business Manager of the Student Pre-Veterinary Club at Illinois State University; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts was a solo pledge at Illinois State University for the Iota Phi Theta Inc. fraternity in 2013, where he earned the name “Captain Anchor Tenacious” and later served as President of the chapter. He went on to revitalize Iota Phi Theta Inc. fraternity at both Eastern Illinois University where it had been closed for 27 years, and at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where it had been closed for 7 years; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts also devoted his efforts to bring science and pet safety to children by creating “*Kids for Science*” as well as an annual Christmas charity drive *IOTA’s “R” Us*; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts was most passionate about exotic animals and planned to earn a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, which would have enabled him to work with zoo animals; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts often traveled to Urbana-Champaign to work as a Lyft driver to earn money toward his goal and to fund the “*Kids for Science*” program; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts’ life was violently cut short in January 2022; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts’ legacy includes an endowed scholarship named “The Dr. Kristian “KP” Philpotts Memorial Scholarship” for veterinary students and animal science majors at Illinois State University, a memorial bench in Redbird Plaza, and a memorial paver in the Commemorative Courtyard at Eastern Illinois University; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts will be honored by an annual scholarship established in his name by the Kappa Omega graduate chapter of Iota Phi Theta, Inc. fraternity for a high school student attending either ISU, EIU, or UIUC. The fraternity will also fund an animal science education program for elementary and middle school age youth in the Urbana-Champaign area; and
- WHEREAS,** Kristian “KP” Philpotts’ life was defined by hard work, determination, passion, and kindness in pursuit of his goal to help others and care for animals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE,** the Mayors of Urbana, Champaign, Bloomington, Normal, and Charleston, Illinois declare  
July 17 as

## *Kristian “KP” Philpotts Day*

in our respective Cities.

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Mayor of Urbana

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Mayor of Champaign

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Mayor of Bloomington

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Mayor of Normal

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Mayor of Charleston