



HJ0064

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General
3 Assembly pays honor and respect to the truly great individuals
4 who have served our country and, in doing so, have made the
5 ultimate sacrifice for our nation; and

6 WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant Blake W. Evans of
7 Rockford was killed on May 25, 2008 while serving his second
8 tour of duty in Iraq; and

9 WHEREAS, Sgt. Evans graduated from Guilford High School in
10 Rockford; and

11 WHEREAS, Sgt. Evans joined the U.S. Army in October of 2003
12 and arrived at Fort Campbell, Kentucky in January of 2004; he
13 was an expert with the M4 assault rifle and was assigned as an
14 infantryman to Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry
15 Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team; and

16 WHEREAS, Sgt. Evans was decorated with three Army
17 Achievement Medals, an Army Good Conduct Medal, a National
18 Defense Service Medal, and numerous other medals and badges;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Sgt. Evans is remembered as a man who loved

1 serving his country and enjoyed sharing stories of handing out
2 candy to Iraqi children to watch their faces light up; and

3 WHEREAS, Sgt. Evans was a soldier, husband, and father; he
4 left behind his mother, Judy Ann Belk; his stepfather, Craig
5 Belk; his father, Kenneth Evans; his wife, Shannon; and his
6 daughters, Kylee and Adriana; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
9 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Illinois Route 251 as it
10 travels between Spring Creek Road and Bauer Parkway as the
11 "Sergeant Blake W. Evans Memorial Highway"; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
13 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
14 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
15 giving notice of the name "Sergeant Blake W. Evans Memorial
16 Highway"; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be sent
18 to the family of Sgt. Evans and the Secretary of the Department
19 of Transportation.