



HR1214

LRB098 21888 MST 60804 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to honor Eric "Nailer" Swanson, Patriot Guard Ride Captain, on his volunteer efforts as Ride Captain in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, The Patriot Guard Riders is a 100% volunteer, federally registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization which ensures dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military heroes, first responders, and honorably discharged veterans; and

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WHEREAS, The Patriot Guard Riders is a diverse amalgamation of riders from across the nation that have one thing in common besides motorcycles - an unwavering respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security; its main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family with 2 basic objectives: show respect for fallen heroes, their families, and their communities, and shield the family and their friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors; and

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WHEREAS, Eric Swanson was born in Pensacola, Florida, and eventually moved to live with his grandmother in Missouri; he

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1 married Liz in 1974, and they have 2 children, Nikolas and  
2 Rebecca; he joined the United States Marines and served from  
3 1969 to 1981, including tours in Vietnam from August 1969 to  
4 April 1973; he was awarded the Bronze Star and 4 Purple Hearts,  
5 among others medals; he remained active in the reserves from  
6 1974 on; and

7 WHEREAS, Eric Swanson joined the Davenport Police  
8 Department in 1974 and worked in various departments until  
9 1980; he also worked in the insurance industry for several  
10 years; he became a Patriot Guard Rider in December 2005 and  
11 accepted Ride Captain responsibilities in February 2006;  
12 today, he serves as a Ride Captain in Illinois, and as a Senior  
13 Ride Captain in Iowa; and

14 WHEREAS, Eric Swanson leads over 100 missions a year to  
15 support veterans, first responders, and their families; for  
16 each mission he notifies those involved, scouts a route, puts  
17 together the details of the ceremony, and leads the Patriot  
18 Guard to its destination; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
20 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
21 we honor Eric "Nailer" Swanson, Patriot Guard Ride Captain, on  
22 his volunteer efforts as Ride Captain in Illinois; and be it  
23 further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Eric Swanson as an expression of our esteem and  
3 respect.