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LRB104 05677 LAW 15707 r

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General Assembly pays honor and respect to veterans who have served their country and the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Private First Class Ralph E. Snell was a member of the 136th Infantry, 33rd Division of the U.S. Army; he entered into service on April 22, 1942, and he was stationed at various camps in the United States until he went overseas on July 5, 1943; he served in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns and returned to the United States on November 4, 1945; he was honorably discharged at Camp Grant on November 24, 1945; and

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WHEREAS, On May 6, 1945, the 136th Infantry was met by heavy mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire from the flanks and from caves on the reverse slope; as it reached the crest of the hill, a machine gun on the right flank opened fire and wounded four men; PFC Snell moved forward alone and destroyed the weapon and its crew; he then directed his fellow soldiers in destroying three Japanese strong points; although wounded himself, he led his fellow soldiers forward, secured the enemy positions, captured the hill, and only then allowed himself to be evacuated; and

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1           WHEREAS, On June 9, 1946, PFC Snell was awarded the  
2 Distinguished Service Cross, the army's second highest award  
3 for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty;  
4 along with the cross, he received the Good Conduct Medal, the  
5 American Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two  
6 Bronze Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one  
7 Bronze Battle Star, and the Purple Heart; and

8           WHEREAS, PFC Snell displayed inspiring leadership,  
9 indomitable fighting spirit, and heroic effort despite his  
10 wounds; therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
12 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Utica  
14 River Bridge as the "Ralph E. Snell Memorial Bridge"; and be it  
15 further

16           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
17 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
18 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
19 giving notice of the name "Ralph E. Snell Memorial Bridge";  
20 and be it further

21           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
22 presented to the family of PFC Snell and the Secretary of the

1 Illinois Department of Transportation.