



HJ0075

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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 gone above
5 and beyond the call of duty to make the ultimate sacrifice for
6 our nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe was killed in action
8 during the War in Iraq near the city of Al Hillah on March 31,
9 2003; he was a member of the 101st Airborne Division (Air
10 Assault) of the United States Army and was based at Fort
11 Campbell, Kentucky; he was the first Infantryman of the 101st
12 to be killed in combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first
13 from the Northern Illinois Area to be killed in that war; and

14 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe's last act of kindness was toward
15 one of his "brothers," the Medic serving with his unit; when
16 Specialist Rowe saw that his friend was uncomfortable where he
17 was seated on the tank, he offered to change places with him,
18 thereby putting himself in the front of the tank; and

19 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe's death was the catalyst that led
20 the leader of his unit to get the men to safety, off of their
21 assigned tanks, and to find cover; against great odds, the unit
22 continued to fight for eight hours that day, in spite of the

1 fact that information had been offered that there would be
2 little resistance by the Republican Guard Soldiers; no other
3 lives were lost in the battle, making the mission a success;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe was posthumously awarded many
6 medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart
7 Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal; he earned many
8 other awards and recognitions throughout his military career;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe was born in Rockford on April 14,
11 1982; he graduated from Hononegah High School in 2000; during
12 high school, he worked at DiGiovanni's Restaurant and
13 Highlander Supermarket in Roscoe; he attended Rock Valley
14 College before enlisting in the United States Army in 2001; he
15 planned to continue studying computers after his military
16 service; and

17 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe is survived by his maternal
18 grandfather, George Scheidegger; his paternal grandmother,
19 Tennessee Sanders; his mother, Wendy Borowski; his stepfather,
20 Rick Borowski; his father, Milton Rowe; his stepmother, Debbie
21 Rowe; his sister, Leah Yates; his brothers, Brent and Kevin
22 Rowe; his stepsisters, Heidi and Heather Schultz; his nephews,
23 Devon Yates and Jake and Aiden Rowe; and his niece, Grace

1 Yates; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
4 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the section of
5 Illinois Route 251 from Bridge Street in Roscoe to Rockton Road
6 in Roscoe as the Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe Memorial
7 Highway; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Tollway is requested to erect
9 at suitable locations, consistent with State and federal
10 regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the
11 name of "Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe Memorial Highway"; and
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe and
15 the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.