



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 41

2 WHEREAS, Joseph Gurney Cannon was born in Guilford County,
3 North Carolina on May 7, 1836; his parents, Gulielma
4 Hollingsworth and physician Horace F. Cannon, moved the family
5 to Indiana when he was four; and

6 WHEREAS, After his father's death, Joe Cannon apprenticed
7 himself to an attorney and then studied at the Cincinnati Law
8 School; and

9 WHEREAS, Joe Cannon moved to Tuscola and was named States
10 Attorney for the 27th Judicial District; in 1868, he ran for
11 Congress and began a 46 year Congressional career; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1876, Joe Cannon moved to Danville, where he
13 resided for the rest of his life; he married Mary P. Reed in
14 1862, and they had two daughters; and

15 WHEREAS, Joe Cannon's first leadership post was as
16 chairman of the Appropriations Committee; in 1903, he was
17 elected Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
18 and throughout his speakership, he remained a fierce defender
19 of the rights of the House; and

20 WHEREAS, Members chafed under Joe Cannon's iron-fisted

1 rule; in 1911, a coalition of reform-minded Republicans joined
2 with the Democrats to depose him from the speakership; he was
3 defeated for re-election the following year, but like a true
4 political survivor, he ran and won again in 1914; he served
5 another four terms in Congress before retiring permanently in
6 1922; and

7 WHEREAS, Joe Cannon declined to run in the 1922
8 congressional election and retired at the end of his last term
9 in 1923; he was featured on the cover of the first issue of
10 Time magazine on the last day of his last term in office; and

11 WHEREAS, Joe Cannon is the second longest-serving
12 Republican representative, surpassed only by Alaska
13 congressman Don Young; he was the first member of Congress, of
14 either party, to surpass 40 years of service
15 (non-consecutive); his congressional career spanned 46 years
16 of cumulative service, a concurrent 50 years, and held a
17 record not broken until 1959; and

18 WHEREAS, Joe Cannon died in his residence in Danville on
19 November 12, 1926; and

20 WHEREAS, Joe Cannon was one of the most effective Speakers
21 of the House in American history, so it was not a surprise when
22 he was chosen as the namesake for the first House office

1 building; later, buildings would be named for Speakers Sam
2 Rayburn and Nicholas Longworth as well former Congressman and
3 President Gerald Ford; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
5 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
6 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the section of
7 Illinois Route 1 within the city limits of Danville as
8 "Speaker Joe Cannon Highway"; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
10 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
11 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
12 giving notice of the name "Speaker Joe Cannon Highway"; and be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Joe Cannon, the Mayor of Danville,
16 and the Secretary of Transportation.