



HJ0086

LRB102 26763 MST 37694 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is important and appropriate to honor and
3 remember the men and women of the Illinois State Police
4 Trooper Patrol for their contributions to improving public
5 safety; and

6 WHEREAS, Trooper James Grady Sutton and Chief Daniel Law
7 of the Harrisburg Police Department were shot and killed
8 during an arrest; and

9 WHEREAS, As Trooper Sutton and Chief Law were escorting
10 three suspects in a stolen car to jail, the violators drew
11 weapons and opened fire on the officers; and

12 WHEREAS, The officers stopped the vehicle at Poplar and
13 Vine Streets, directing the driver to City Hall for further
14 questioning; Trooper Sutton stood on the left running board
15 and Chief Law on the right running board of the vehicle; as the
16 vehicle approached City Hall, the driver accelerated, and the
17 men in the car drew weapons, killing both officers; and

18 WHEREAS, Trooper Sutton was struck in the chest and fell
19 to the street near City Hall; before being shot in the head and
20 body, Chief Law was able to cling to the vehicle for four
21 blocks, exchanging gunfire with the suspects and killing one

1 of them until he finally dropped from the vehicle; and

2 WHEREAS, Trooper Sutton died from his wounds following
3 emergency surgery shortly after midnight; the suspect killed
4 by Chief Law was found in the abandoned vehicle ten miles north
5 of Harrisburg; the other two fugitives were later captured in
6 the state of Virginia and returned to Illinois for trial,
7 where they both received life sentences; and

8 WHEREAS, Trooper Sutton and Chief Law were buried in
9 adjoining plots in Sunset Lawn Cemetery in Harrisburg; Trooper
10 Sutton was a three-year veteran of the Illinois State Police
11 and was survived by his wife; and

12 WHEREAS, The service and sacrifice of Trooper Sutton and
13 Chief Law to the people of Illinois should never be forgotten;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Illinois Route 34
18 within the city limits of Harrisburg as the "Trooper Sutton
19 and Chief Law Memorial Highway"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
21 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with

1 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
2 giving notice of the name of "Trooper Sutton and Chief Law
3 Memorial Highway"; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 presented to the surviving members of the families of Trooper
6 Sutton and Chief Law, the Illinois State Police, the
7 Harrisburg Police Department, and the Secretary of the
8 Department of Transportation.