



SJ0010

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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to remember the many sacrifices
3 and contributions to the cause of freedom made by the
4 outstanding men and women who have served in the United States
5 Armed Forces; and

6 WHEREAS, From 1946 to 1962, the United States conducted
7 approximately 200 atmospheric nuclear tests, more than all
8 other nuclear states combined at that time; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 400,000 servicemen in the U.S.
10 Army, Navy, and Marines were present during these atmospheric
11 tests, whether as witnesses to the tests themselves or as
12 post-test cleanup crews; and

13 WHEREAS, The Manhattan Project was the code name for the
14 American-led effort to develop a functional atomic weapon
15 during World War II; and

16 WHEREAS, Two types of atomic bombs were developed
17 concurrently during the war, a relatively simple gun-type
18 fission weapon and a more complex implosion-type nuclear
19 weapon; the Thin Man gun-type design proved impractical to use
20 with plutonium, and therefore, a simpler gun-type called
21 Little Boy was developed that used uranium-235, an isotope

1 that makes up only 0.7 percent of natural uranium; since it was
2 chemically identical to the most common isotope, uranium-238,
3 and had almost the same mass, separating the two proved
4 difficult; three methods were employed for uranium enrichment,
5 electromagnetic, gaseous, and thermal; most of this work was
6 performed at the Clinton Engineer Works at Oak Ridge,
7 Tennessee; and

8 WHEREAS, In parallel with the work on uranium was an
9 effort to produce plutonium, which was discovered by
10 researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, in
11 1940; after the feasibility of the world's first artificial
12 nuclear reactor, the Chicago Pile-1, was demonstrated in 1942
13 at the Metallurgical Laboratory in the University of Chicago,
14 the project designed the X-10 Graphite Reactor at Oak Ridge
15 and the production reactors at the Hanford Site in Washington
16 state, in which uranium was irradiated and transmuted into
17 plutonium and the plutonium was then chemically separated from
18 the uranium, using the bismuth phosphate process; the Fat Man
19 plutonium implosion-type weapon was developed in a concerted
20 design and development effort by the Los Alamos Laboratory;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Illinois played an important part in the
23 Manhattan Project; and

1 WHEREAS, Argonne National Laboratory is a science and
2 engineering research national laboratory operated by the
3 University of Chicago for the United States Department of
4 Energy; the facility is located in Lemont, outside of Chicago,
5 and is the largest national laboratory by size and scope in the
6 Midwest; and

7 WHEREAS, On July 1, 1946, the laboratory was formally
8 chartered as Argonne National Laboratory to conduct
9 cooperative research in nucleonics; at the request of the U.S.
10 Atomic Energy Commission, it began developing nuclear reactors
11 for the nation's peaceful nuclear energy program; in the late
12 1940s and early 1950s, the laboratory moved to a larger
13 location in Lemont and established a remote location in Idaho
14 called "Argonne-West" to conduct further nuclear research; and

15 WHEREAS, Code-named the "Metallurgical Lab", the team
16 constructed Chicago Pile-1, which achieved criticality on
17 December 2, 1942 underneath the stands at the University of
18 Chicago's Stagg Field; because the experiments were deemed too
19 dangerous to conduct in a major city, the operations were
20 moved to a spot in nearby Palos Hills and renamed "Argonne"
21 after the surrounding forest; and

22 WHEREAS, Red Gate Woods is a forest preserve within the
23 Palos Division of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County

1 and is located near where the Cal-Sag Channel meets the
2 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal; the original site of Argonne
3 National Laboratory and the Site A/Plot M Disposal Site is in
4 the woods, which contains the buried remains of Chicago
5 Pile-1, the world's first artificial nuclear reactor; and

6 WHEREAS, It is important to remember and honor the
7 sacrifices and achievements of all those who served;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the
12 portion of Illinois Route 171 between Illinois Route 83 and
13 U.S. Route 45 as the "Atomic Veterans Highway"; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
16 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
17 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
18 giving notice of the name of "Atomic Veterans Highway"; and be
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
21 presented to the Secretary of Transportation and the Atomic
22 Heritage Foundation.