



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois recognize William Franker for his heroic  
4 military service; and

5 WHEREAS, In March 1967, at 17, Mr. Franker enlisted in the  
6 Unites States Marines; five days after graduation from Chicago  
7 Vocational he was on his way to boot camp; six months later, he  
8 landed in Vietnam; and

9 WHEREAS, He spent his battles with Alpha Company in a tank,  
10 first as crewman, then as a tank commander, then as a heavy  
11 section leader; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Franker was wounded twice, each time when he  
13 was out of his tank; the first, May 19, 1969, took him out of  
14 action for weeks because he lost his hearing; it happened as he  
15 was guiding the tanks into defensive position for the night  
16 when one rolled over a land mine; he was four feet away, but  
17 the blast got him; and

18 WHEREAS, The second time he was wounded was August 2, 1969,  
19 when after a heavy storm of mortar fire, he got out of the tank  
20 to take care of his guys and help move the wounded; mortar fire  
21 started again, he was hit; and

22 WHEREAS, Things were tough for Mr. Franker when he returned  
23 from Vietnam in June 1970 after two tours; people didn't know  
24 how to treat him; it was tough to get a job; he is currently the  
25 warehouse manager at Illiana Transit warehouse in Hammond; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Franker and his wife of 24 years, Mary, have  
27 three children, Steve, Lauren, and Kim; therefore, be it

28 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
2 honor William Franker who served his country valiantly through  
3 his military service; and we wish him well in all his future  
4 endeavors; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 presented to William Franker as an expression of our respect  
7 and esteem.