



HJ0088 Engrossed

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 88

2 WHEREAS, It is necessary to honor and remember the military
3 heroes of our State and country who have served with great
4 dedication to preserving our liberties and freedoms; and

5 WHEREAS, Russell E. Dunham was born in 1920 in East
6 Carondelet and raised on a small farm near Fosterburg; when he
7 was 20 years old he enlisted in the United States Army; and

8 WHEREAS, Russell Dunham achieved the rank of Technical
9 Sergeant and platoon leader with the 30th Infantry, 3rd
10 Infantry Division, and saw combat in North Africa, Sicily,
11 Italy, and France; and

12 WHEREAS, On January 8th, 1945, Technical Sergeant Dunham's
13 unit was pinned down between artillery fire and enemy machine
14 gun nests at the base of snow-covered Hill 616 in
15 Alsace-Lorraine near Kaisersberg, France; Technical Sergeant
16 Dunham made the decision to advance single-handedly, using a
17 white mattress as camouflage and cover; Technical Sergeant
18 Dunham then preceded to neutralize all three machine gun
19 emplacements using only his carbine and hand grenades, while
20 being wounded by enemy fire in the process; and

21 WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Dunham was awarded the Medal of

1 Honor in 1945 for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at
2 risk of life above and beyond the call of duty"; General
3 Alexander Patch said, while he placed the award around Dunham's
4 neck, that his actions had single-handedly saved the lives of
5 120 pinned-down US soldiers; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to the Medal of Honor, Technical
7 Sergeant Dunham was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star,
8 Purple Heart, and the Croix de Guerre for Heroism from the
9 President of France for his valiant service during the Second
10 World War; and

11 WHEREAS, After his service, Technical Sergeant Dunham
12 returned to west central Illinois, where he continued to serve
13 his fellow soldiers by working as a benefits counselor with the
14 Veterans Administration in St. Louis for 32 years; he also
15 honored his fellow infantrymen by getting a monument erected at
16 Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery to honor those who served
17 with the 3rd Infantry Division; and

18 WHEREAS, He was an avid hunter and proud member of the
19 Alton Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1308; and

20 WHEREAS, After his marriage to Mary Dunham ended, Technical
21 Sergeant Dunham lived out the remainder of his life in Jersey
22 County with his second wife, Wilda Long-Bazzell Dunham; and

1 WHEREAS, He had a daughter, Mary Neal, with his first wife;
2 and two stepchildren, Annette Wilson and David Bazzell; in
3 addition, Technical Sergeant Dunham had 8 brothers, 5 sisters,
4 and multiple grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Dunham passed away in 2009 in
6 Godfrey, at the age of 89; and

7 WHEREAS, The members of this Body are humbled and honored
8 by Technical Sergeant Russell Dunham's distinguished life and
9 valiant military service; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a section of United States Highway 67
11 running through the entirety of Jersey County and extending
12 into Madison County; and

13 WHEREAS, When completed, there shall also be a section of
14 Illinois State Highway 255 running between Seminary Road at
15 Milepost 16 to United States Highway 67 at Milepost 21;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE ILLINOIS SENATE
19 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the stretch of United
20 States Highway 67 beginning at the Jersey County line and

1 traveling south to Illinois State Highway 255, and continuing
2 onto Illinois State Highway 255, when completed, between
3 Mileposts 16 and 21 as the "Russell E. Dunham Memorial
4 Highway"; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That upon completion of any unfinished sections
6 of highway, the Illinois Department of Transportation is
7 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State
8 and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving
9 notice of the name; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to the Dunham family, the Village of Godfrey, the
12 county boards of both Jersey and Madison Counties, and the
13 Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.