



HR0519

LRB099 12534 MST 36016 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, United States Marine Private Jack Redman has finally been laid to rest in his Illinois hometown of Watseka more than 70 years after his combat death in World War II; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Jack Redman was born on November 17, 1923 to Guy "Jack" and Hazel Martin Redman; and

6

7

WHEREAS, Jack Redman graduated from Watseka Community High School in 1942, where he excelled in football, basketball, and track; and

8

9

10

WHEREAS, Jack Redman played football at the University of Illinois before enlisting in the Marines at the age of 19; and

11

12

WHEREAS, Jack Redman lost his life in battle on the island of Tarawa Atoll in the Central Pacific Ocean on November 23, 1943; and

13

14

15

WHEREAS, Soldiers who fought beside Jack Redman on his final day reported that he was a true hero who saved the lives of 5 of his friends and was attempting to bring an injured man to safety when he was fatally shot; and

16

17

18

19

WHEREAS, Jack Redman's remains were lost overseas for more

1 than 70 years, but his family, including his brothers Merrill  
2 and Eugene Redman, both of Watseka, along with 2 nieces and 2  
3 nephews, never gave up their efforts to find him and bring him  
4 home to Central Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, An exhaustive 7-decade search for Jack Redman's  
6 pacific theater gravesite finally and successfully ended last  
7 fall with his discovery by a Tarawa native; and

8 WHEREAS, On May 16, 2015, Jack Redman was finally laid to  
9 rest at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Watseka with full military  
10 honors; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
13 honor Marine Private Jack Redman's heroism and sacrifice and we  
14 also honor the Redman family for their dedication to bringing  
15 him home, no matter how long it took; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of Jack Redman as a symbol of our  
18 sympathy and respect.