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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General Assembly pays honor and respect to the truly great individuals who have served our country and, in doing so, have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation; and

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WHEREAS, Sergeant Dean Russell Shaffer graduated from Pekin Community High School in 2007, where he was Junior ROTC and on the Drill Team all four years; he was also Honor Guard his senior year, working his way up to the top of command; following high school, he enlisted in the United States Army; he went on to his Advanced Individual Training - Black Hawk repair; he was stationed in Hawaii at Scofield AAF from 2009 to 2010; his unit, the 25th Infantry Division, was deployed and completed a tour in Iraq; after his return from Iraq, he was scheduled to change bases, but he elected to stay with the 25th and became Crew Chief; and

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WHEREAS, On January 9, 2012, the 25th Infantry Division was deployed to Afghanistan; on April 19, 2012, Sgt. Shaffer's crew was running a standard escort mission for Med-Vac; later that evening, the Black Hawk helicopter he was on crashed, killing all four crew members; and

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WHEREAS, Sgt. Shaffer was posthumously promoted to the rank

1 of Sergeant; he was awarded numerous commendations, including
2 the Bronze Star, the Enduring Freedom Medal, and the Hawaiian
3 Honor Medal; and

4 WHEREAS, Sgt. Shaffer is remembered most for his infectious
5 smile; his presence would put everyone into a good mood; he
6 loved his family, his country, and his friends, and he was more
7 than willing to risk his life to protect all of it; therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the section of Illinois
12 Route 98 from its intersection with Illinois Route 29 to its
13 intersection with McNaughton Park Drive as the "Sgt. Dean
14 Russel Shaffer Memorial Highway"; and be it 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 "Sgt. Dean Russel Shaffer Memorial
19 Highway"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the Secretary of the Department of Transportation
22 and the family of Sgt. Shaffer.