



HJ0058

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly are  
3 saddened to hear of the death of Dale Allen Gardner, who passed  
4 away on February 19, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner was born in Fairmont, Minnesota on  
6 November 8, 1948; he graduated from Savanna Community High  
7 School in 1966 as valedictorian and earned a Bachelor of  
8 Science in Engineering and Physics at the University of  
9 Illinois in 1970 with a 5.0 grade point average; and

10 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner entered into active duty with the  
11 United States Navy and was assigned to Aviation Officer  
12 Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida; and

13 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner graduated from Basic Naval Flight  
14 Officer Training School with the highest academic average ever  
15 achieved in the history of the squadron; and

16 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner then attended Naval Air Technical  
17 Training Center for advanced training where he was selected as  
18 a Distinguished Naval Graduate and was awarded his Naval Flight  
19 Officer Wings on May 5, 1971; and

20 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner then spent his next two years

1 assigned to the Weapons Systems Test Division; he was involved  
2 in the initial F-14 Tomcat developmental test and evaluation  
3 from 1973 until 1976 and was assigned with the first  
4 operational F-14 squadron; and

5 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner was assigned to Test and Evaluation  
6 Squadron Four (VX-4) aboard Naval Air Station Point Mugu,  
7 California and was involved in the operational test and  
8 evaluation of Navy fighter aircraft; and

9 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner was selected as an astronaut  
10 candidate by NASA in January of 1978; he reported to the  
11 Johnson Space Center and completed a one-year training and  
12 evaluation period in August of 1979; and

13 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner subsequently served as the Astronaut  
14 Project Manager for the flight software in the space shuttle  
15 onboard computers leading up to the first flight in April of  
16 1981; and

17 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner logged a total of 337 hours in space  
18 and 225 orbits of the Earth on two flights at the end of his  
19 NASA career; and

20 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner returned to his Navy duties and was  
21 assigned to the United States Space Command in Colorado

1 Springs, Colorado in October of 1986 where he served for two  
2 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner was promoted to the rank of captain  
4 in June of 1989 and became the Command's Deputy Director for  
5 Space Control at Patterson Air Force Base; and

6 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner retired from the United States Navy  
7 in October of 1990 and accepted a position with TRW Inc. in  
8 Colorado Springs and became program manager for TRW's Space and  
9 Defense Sector; and

10 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner ended his career as the Associate  
11 Director for Renewable Fuels Science and Technology at the  
12 National Renewable Energy Laboratory in 2003 and retired in  
13 January of 2013; and

14 WHEREAS, Dale Gardner was awarded the Defense Superior  
15 Service Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious  
16 Unit Commendation, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Sea  
17 Service Deployment Ribbon, the NASA Space Flight Medal, the  
18 Master Space Badge, and the Lloyd's of London Meritorious  
19 Service Medal; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE

1 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Savanna-Sabula bridge  
2 as the "Dale Gardner Veterans Memorial Bridge"; and be it  
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
5 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
6 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
7 giving notice of the name "Dale Gardner Veterans Memorial  
8 Bridge"; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Dale Gardner, the Mayor of Savanna,  
11 the Mayor of Sabula, Iowa, and the Secretary of the Illinois  
12 Department of Transportation.