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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that we remember those who
3 contributed to the betterment of the State of Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Michael W. Ragusa was born in Streator to Joseph
5 and Priscilla (Fulks) Ragusa on September 2, 1948; he graduated
6 from Streator High School in 1967 and attended Illinois Valley
7 Community College; he married Roseann Liss on May 24, 1975; and

8 WHEREAS, Michael Ragusa served with the United States
9 Marine Corps in Vietnam; and

10 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, millions of gallons of
11 Agent Orange were used as a weapon against the Viet Cong;
12 Michael Ragusa was one of the thousands of soldiers exposed to
13 Agent Orange during the war; and

14 WHEREAS, For 35 years, Michael Ragusa worked for the
15 Disabled American Veterans and AMVETS of Illinois, where he
16 dedicated his life to helping veterans; unfortunately, he
17 brought back part of Vietnam with him, which would impact his
18 health, but never his spirit; and

19 WHEREAS, Michael Ragusa was a life member of the Illinois
20 AMVETS and Streator VFW Post 1492; he was also a member of the

1 AMVETS Riders, the Pekin Marine Corps League, Streator American
2 Legion Post 217, and the Streator Elks Lodge 591; and

3 WHEREAS, Michael Ragusa, 68, passed away on September 27,
4 2016 with his family by his side; he fought a courageous battle
5 for a long time and left this world with grace and dignity; and

6 WHEREAS, Michael Ragusa was preceded in death by his
7 parents and his brother, Joseph Alan Ragusa; and

8 WHEREAS, Surviving Michael Ragusa are his daughters, Renee
9 (John) Ainsley and Kim (Brad Washkowiak) Ragusa; his
10 grandchildren, Scott Hays, Anthony Cunningham, and Alayna
11 Washkowiak; his brother, Chris (Cheri Michel) Ragusa; his
12 sister-in-law, Debra Ragusa; his brother-in-law, Ray (Anita)
13 Liss; and several nieces and nephews; and

14 WHEREAS, Michael Ragusa enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs,
15 savoring a fine glass of wine, and most of all, he loved to be
16 with his family; and

17 WHEREAS, Michael Ragusa was a humble man who did not truly
18 see how special he was; he always had a kind word to say, was a
19 great giver of advice, and was an inspiration for all who knew
20 him; therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Route 23 bridge in
4 Streator over the Vermilion River as the "Vietnam Veteran
5 Michael W. Ragusa Memorial Bridge"; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
7 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
8 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
9 giving notice of the name "Vietnam Veteran Michael W. Ragusa
10 Memorial Bridge"; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 presented to the Secretary of Transportation, the Mayor of
13 Streator, and the family of Vietnam Veteran Michael Ragusa.