



HR0168

LRB101 11457 MST 57138 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that we as a State and as
3 individual citizens pay honor and respect to the men and women
4 who have served our nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Many veterans returning from active duty
6 experience not only physical ailments but psychological ones as
7 well, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety,
8 depression, and difficulty readjusting to civilian life in
9 general; and

10 WHEREAS, For some of these veterans, these psychological
11 ailments turn into chronic mental illnesses which can
12 tragically result in death from suicide; and

13 WHEREAS, Between 2008 and 2016, there were more than 6,000
14 veteran suicides each year across the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2016, the most recent year for which data is
16 available, the suicide rate for veterans was 1.5 times greater
17 than non-veterans and accounted for 14 percent of all adult
18 suicide deaths in the U.S. even though only eight percent of
19 the country's population has served in the military; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2016, 6,079 veterans tragically lost their

1 lives to suicide in the United States with 162 veterans dying
2 by suicide in the State of Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, While there are many wonderful and fitting
4 memorials and tributes to our nation's greatest heroes at Oak
5 Ridge Cemetery, there is no memorial for veterans who have died
6 from suicide; and

7 WHEREAS, These brave service members deserve to be
8 remembered and honored for the great sacrifices they made
9 serving this country; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we support veterans currently struggling with mental illness
13 and thoughts of suicide and pay tribute to those veterans who
14 have sadly lost their lives to suicide; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we encourage the State of Illinois to create
16 a memorial for veterans who have died of suicide to be included
17 at Oak Ridge Cemetery where other war memorials commemorate
18 Illinois' veterans; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
20 delivered to every member of the General Assembly, the
21 Governor, and the Director of Veteran Affairs.