



HR0293

LRB101 12079 MST 59583 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to honor Medal of Honor recipient Thomas
4 C. Murphy of Tazewell County; and

5 WHEREAS, Thomas Murphy was born in Ireland on February 1,
6 1844; he enlisted in the Union Army on August 15, 1861 as a
7 member of Company I of the 31st Illinois Infantry Volunteers
8 with the rank of private; and

9 WHEREAS, Thomas Murphy participated in the Battle of
10 Belmont, the Battle of Fort Donelson, the Battle of Champion
11 Hill, the Battle of Big Black River, the Siege of Vicksburg,
12 the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, the Battle of Atlanta, and the
13 Battle of Jonesboro; and

14 WHEREAS, On May 22, 1863, during an assault on the
15 fortifications outside Vicksburg, Thomas Murphy was in the heat
16 of the battle, and according to his Medal of Honor Certificate,
17 "he crossed the line of heavy fire of Union and Confederate
18 forces, carrying a message to stop the firing of one Union
19 regiment on another"; and

20 WHEREAS, Thomas Murphy and the entire 31st Illinois
21 Infantry were honored for their actions during the Siege of

1 Vicksburg by being the first unit to march into the city
2 following its formal surrender; and

3 WHEREAS, Following his discharge, Thomas Murphy returned
4 to Tazewell County in 1864; he graduated from Rush Medical
5 College in Chicago and married Virginia Maria Plackett on
6 February 2, 1871; they had six children, four of whom survived
7 to adulthood; and

8 WHEREAS, On June 23, 1916, Thomas Murphy received Medal of
9 Honor Certificate Number 177 for his "conspicuous gallantry in
10 action at Vicksburg"; and

11 WHEREAS, Thomas Murphy died on December 31, 1920 and lies
12 in rest at the Green Valley Cemetery in Green Valley; and

13 WHEREAS, 2019 would have been Thomas Murphy's 175th
14 birthday and the 156th anniversary of his heroic actions during
15 the Battle of Vicksburg; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we honor Thomas C. Murphy during the year of his 175th birthday
19 and 156th anniversary of his heroic actions; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution shall be

1 presented to the residents of Tazewell County as a symbol of
2 our respect and esteem.