



HJ0017 Engrossed

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate and right to honor those great  
3 American figures who have served our nation in public office;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, President Barack Hussein Obama is the pride of  
6 Chicago and Illinois; he began his professional life in Chicago  
7 as a community organizer; he attended Harvard Law School, where  
8 he was the first African American president of the Harvard Law  
9 Review; he taught constitutional law at the University of  
10 Chicago Law School for 12 years; and

11 WHEREAS, President Obama represented the 13th Senate  
12 District in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004; he garnered  
13 respect and passed multiple progressive bipartisan  
14 legislation; and

15 WHEREAS, President Obama was elected United States Senator  
16 from Illinois with a strong mandate of 70% of the vote; his bid  
17 for the presidency was a similar success, creating an  
18 impressive coalition and making history as the first African  
19 American president; and

20 WHEREAS, As President, Barack Obama was given command of  
21 the federal government during the most troubling months of the

1 worst economic recession since the Great Depression and brought  
2 the country back from the brink of financial free-fall; he  
3 signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act  
4 which saved the nation from the worst of the recession's  
5 effects; he also signed into law the Dodd-Frank financial  
6 institution regulations in order to help the nation avoid  
7 another economic catastrophe; and

8 WHEREAS, President Obama reduced the number of U.S. troops  
9 committed internationally; he signed the Paris Agreement and  
10 negotiated a successful Iran nuclear deal; he oversaw the  
11 opening of relations between the U.S. and Cuba; he served the  
12 United States with integrity and distinction and improved the  
13 image of the U.S. abroad; and

14 WHEREAS, President Obama fought for and signed the  
15 Affordable Care Act, providing healthcare to millions and  
16 protecting millions more from being denied for pre-existing  
17 conditions; he also urged the Supreme Court to strike down  
18 same-sex marriage bans and he repealed the "don't ask don't  
19 tell" policy; and

20 WHEREAS, President Obama served with distinction and  
21 dignity and the Illinois General Assembly would like to  
22 preserve his honor for generations to come; 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 entirety of Interstate  
4 294 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower System of Interstate and  
5 Defense Highways as the "President Barack Obama Tollway" in  
6 recognition of President Barack Obama's dedication to public  
7 service as an Illinois State Senator, U.S. Senator from  
8 Illinois, and President of the United States of America; and be  
9 it further

10           RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority is  
11 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State  
12 and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving  
13 notice of the name "President Barack Obama Tollway"; and be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution will be  
16 distributed to the Director of the Illinois State Toll Highway  
17 Authority and President Barack Obama.