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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is appropriate for us to remember the many sacrifices and contributions made by members of the law enforcement community while protecting the safety of the public; and

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WHEREAS, It is also appropriate for us to honor civilians who have given their lives in protecting the public; and

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WHEREAS, Illinois State Police Trooper Michael McCarter, Paxton Police Department Patrolman William Caisse, and civilian, Donald Vice, were shot and killed following a traffic stop on I-57 south of Paxton; Larry C. Hale of the Paxton Police Department was wounded; and

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WHEREAS, On April 7, 1979, at about 9:00 pm, Patrolman Caisse was dispatched to assist Trooper McCarter who was attempting to stop four speeding vehicles traveling southbound; once at the scene, one subject fled to an overpass area and began firing at both officers, fatally wounding Trooper McCarter and Donald Vice, Trooper McCarter's brother-in-law, who was riding with him; and

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WHEREAS, Upon the arrival of another Paxton officer, Larry Hale, gunfire continued from the overpass area as another

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1 suspect retrieved a rifle from the rear of his pickup truck,  
2 shooting Patrolman Caisse in the back, killing him instantly;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The suspect then began firing at Officer Hale,  
5 wounding him in the right leg and chest, before he was able to  
6 return fire; as the suspect fell to the ground and reached for  
7 his weapon, the officer fired his revolver and killed him; and

8 WHEREAS, Trooper McCarter had served with the Illinois  
9 State Police for nine years and was assigned to District 6A; he  
10 was survived by his wife and son; and

11 WHEREAS, Patrolman Caisse had served with the Paxton Police  
12 Department for three years; he was a United States Army  
13 veteran, and served in the Vietnam War; he was survived by his  
14 wife, son, two daughters, his parents, four brothers, and a  
15 sister; and

16 WHEREAS, Donald Vice worked at Caterpillar Tractor Company  
17 in Pontiac; he was survived by his wife, his mother, his  
18 stepfather, six sons, two brothers, three sisters, and four  
19 grandchildren; 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 overpass at 200 North  
2 Road crossing I-57 South of Paxton as the  
3 "McCarter-Caisse-Vice-Hale Memorial Overpass"; and be it  
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
6 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
7 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
8 giving notice of the name of the "McCarter-Caisse-Vice-Hale  
9 Memorial Overpass"; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
11 presented to the families of Trooper Michael McCarter, Paxton  
12 Patrolman William Caisse, and Donald Vice, and to Paxton  
13 Patrolman Larry C. Hale, the Illinois State Police, the Paxton  
14 Police Department, and the Secretary of the Illinois Department  
15 of Transportation.