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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 37

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General  
3 Assembly pays honor and respect to the truly great individuals  
4 who have served their communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Roger E. Walker Jr. was born on February 7, 1949;  
6 he attended Eisenhower High School and served in the United  
7 States Navy from 1967 to 1969; he graduated from Richland  
8 Community College; and

9 WHEREAS, Roger Walker joined the Macon County Sheriff's  
10 Office in 1972; he climbed the ranks to patrol sergeant,  
11 detective, and lieutenant; he loved children and would hand out  
12 licorice to children while patrolling the Longview Housing  
13 Project; and

14 WHEREAS, Roger Walker was elected Macon County Sheriff in  
15 1998, becoming the first African American sheriff in the State  
16 of Illinois; he was re-elected in 2002; and

17 WHEREAS, Roger Walker was appointed Director of the  
18 Department of Corrections in 2003 and served for six years; and

19 WHEREAS, Roger Walker was appointed to the Prisoner Review  
20 Board in 2009 and served until 2010; and

1           WHEREAS, Roger Walker passed away on March 10, 2012;  
2 therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Route 48 as it travels  
6 between Elwin Road and East Mound Road as the "Sheriff Roger E.  
7 Walker Jr. Memorial Road"; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
9 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
10 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
11 giving notice of the name "Sheriff Roger E. Walker Jr. Memorial  
12 Road"; and be it further

13           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Roger Walker, the Mayor of Decatur,  
15 and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.