



HJ0029

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is important to remember and honor those who
3 gave the ultimate sacrifice in service to our great country
4 and the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, CPL Joseph C. Clegg was a soldier who made the
6 ultimate sacrifice in the Western Theater of the American
7 Civil War during the siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, a
8 fortress city that dominated the last Confederate-controlled
9 section of the Mississippi River; the Union victory at
10 Vicksburg was a major turning point of the Civil War and was
11 declared by President Abraham Lincoln as a "key" to defeating
12 the Confederacy and by Confederate President Jefferson Davis
13 as "the nailhead that held the South's two halves together";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Union attempts to take Vicksburg in the summer of
16 1862 failed in part because of the difficulties its geography
17 presented, with the city resting high on a hill; and

18 WHEREAS, Union General Ulysses S. Grant started planning
19 another more sustained effort to take Vicksburg that included
20 building a canal so Union troops could move beyond the range of
21 Confederate guns to allow for a larger gathering of Union
22 troops; and

1 WHEREAS, The battle, which become widely known as the
2 Vicksburg Campaign, included multiple battles when General
3 Grant settled in for a siege by surrounding Vicksburg on May
4 18, 1863 that lasted for 47 days until, on July 4, 1863,
5 Confederate General John Pemberton and General Grant finalized
6 the surrender of Confederate troops and the Union Army took
7 control of Vicksburg; and

8 WHEREAS, During the course of the Vicksburg Campaign, CPL
9 Clegg from Minonk braved the elements and fought valiantly to
10 preserve the Union; he was killed in action on May 22, 1863;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, As a consequence of its military importance and
13 of the sacrifice made by so many people, Vicksburg became a
14 symbol to memorialize Civil War soldiers; and

15 WHEREAS, The bravery of countless Civil War soldiers who
16 fought to the end is consistent with the greatest acts of
17 heroism known in our nation's history; and

18 WHEREAS, CPL Clegg of the 77th Illinois Volunteer Infantry
19 is interred and memorialized in the Vicksburg National
20 Cemetery, which is the final resting place for over 17,000
21 Union and Confederate soldiers who died during the Vicksburg

1 Campaign; and

2 WHEREAS, CPL Clegg is also memorialized on the tombstone
3 of his parents, Alexander Clegg and Sarah Conway Clegg, and on
4 the gravesite of his siblings, Martha Clegg Earl and Thomas
5 Sylvester Clegg, in Minonk Township Cemetery; and

6 WHEREAS, CPL Clegg served valiantly and died on the
7 battlefield of Vicksburg during our nation's fight to preserve
8 democracy and freedom for all Americans; and

9 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is one of 31 states to have
10 memorials or monuments commemorating the contribution of their
11 citizens during the Vicksburg Campaign; and

12 WHEREAS, CPL Clegg is an example of dedication and
13 sacrifice to preserve a more perfect Union, and it is fitting
14 we remember his ultimate sacrifice; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
16 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of
18 Illinois Route 251 as it travels through Minonk as the "CPL
19 Joseph C. Clegg Memorial Highway"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation

1 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
2 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
3 giving notice of the name of "CPL Joseph C. Clegg Memorial
4 Highway"; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
6 presented to the Secretary of Transportation, the Mayor of
7 Minonk, the Woodford County Historical Society, and the
8 descendants of CPL Clegg.