



HJ0035

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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 our country and, in doing so, have gone above  
5 and beyond the call of duty to make the ultimate sacrifice for  
6 our nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe was killed in  
8 action during the War in Iraq near the city of Al Hillah on  
9 March 31, 2003; he was a member of the 101st Airborne Division  
10 (Air Assault) of the United States Army and was based at Fort  
11 Campbell, Kentucky; he was the first Infantryman of the 101st  
12 to be killed in combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom and the first  
13 from the Northern Illinois Area to be killed in that war; and

14 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe was a machine gun (SAW) operator  
15 in his infantry unit that was assigned to a tank unit to  
16 provide cover; their combined mission was to perform a "feint"  
17 to draw attention from the main attacking force;  
18 unfortunately, they came into an ambush situation and were  
19 completely surrounded; and

20 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe's death was the catalyst that led  
21 the leader of his unit to get the men to safety, off of their  
22 assigned tanks, and to find cover; against great odds, the

1 unit continued to fight for eight hours that day, in spite of  
2 the fact that information had been offered that there would be  
3 little resistance by the Republican Guard Soldiers; no other  
4 lives were lost in the battle, making the mission a success;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe was posthumously awarded many  
7 medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart  
8 Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal; he earned many  
9 other awards and recognitions throughout his military career;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe was born in Rockford on April 14,  
12 1982; he graduated from Hononegah High School in 2000; during  
13 high school, he worked at DiGiovanni's Restaurant and  
14 Highlander Supermarket in Roscoe; he attended Rock Valley  
15 College before enlisting in the United States Army in 2001; he  
16 planned to continue studying computers after his military  
17 service; and

18 WHEREAS, Specialist Rowe is survived by his paternal  
19 grandmother, Tennessee Sanders; his mother, Wendy Borowski;  
20 his stepfather, Rick Borowski; his father, Milton Rowe; his  
21 stepmother, Debbie Rowe; his sister, Leah (Doug) Yates; his  
22 brothers, Brent and Kevin Rowe; his stepsisters, Heidi and  
23 Heather Schultz; his nephews, Devon Yates and Jake and Aiden

1 Rowe; and his niece, Grace Yates; therefore, be it

2       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
4 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the section of  
5 Illinois Route 251 from Bridge Street in Roscoe to Rockton  
6 Road in Roscoe as the Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe Memorial  
7 Highway; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the Illinois Tollway is requested to erect  
9 at suitable locations, consistent with State and federal  
10 regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the  
11 name of "Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe Memorial Highway"; and  
12 be it further

13       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Specialist Brandon Jacob Rowe and  
15 the Secretary of the Department of Transportation.