



HJ0079

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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 our communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans and leaders of the Fox Valley  
6 communities, including but not limited to Aurora, Montgomery,  
7 and Oswego alike, are remembering and honoring local veteran  
8 Herschel Luckinbill; and

9 WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill was born in Ardmore, Oklahoma  
10 on August 2, 1945; after graduating from high school, he  
11 enlisted in the U.S. Navy and completed boot camp at the Great  
12 Lakes Naval Training Center; he served two tours of duty  
13 during the Vietnam War aboard the USS O'Brien, the first  
14 American ship to receive direct hits from the enemy during the  
15 Vietnam War on December 23, 1966; and

16 WHEREAS, A long-time Montgomery resident, Herschel  
17 Luckinbill embraced the work of the VFW and the American  
18 Legion, serving 25 times as a guardian for World War II  
19 veterans participating in Honor Flight Chicago; as an  
20 ambassador and fundraiser for the program, he raised more than  
21 \$100,000 in donations for honor flights; and

1           WHEREAS, In 2013, Herschel Luckinbill brought the  
2 traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial,  
3 The Moving Wall, to Aurora, and more than 200,000 people  
4 visited the site; he was honored for his work by State Rep. Kay  
5 Hatcher of Yorkville and selected by the Illinois Department  
6 of Veteran Affairs to serve as Veteran of the Month for the  
7 State; that same year, he lead the efforts to restore the  
8 Spanish-American War cannon that resides at the Riverside  
9 Cemetery in Montgomery; the wagon was built in 1889 by the  
10 Watervliet Arsenal in New York; the Rock Island Arsenal built  
11 the carriage in 1887; and

12           WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill was instrumental in bringing  
13 the traveling Middle East Conflicts Wall of Honor to Illinois,  
14 the first trip outside its home state; the Wall of Honor, a  
15 visual tribute to military personnel who have died while  
16 serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, was on display in the atrium  
17 of the Oswego Village Hall; and

18           WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill was the leader of the Fox  
19 Valley Veterans Breakfast Club; he assumed leadership of the  
20 club from the late Senator Mitchler, a World War II veteran,  
21 and helped it grow from a casual coffee club to an important  
22 group in the Fox Valley communities; and

23           WHEREAS, In June of 2017, Herschel Luckinbill brought The

1 Moving Wall to Oswego, where, with the support of more than 700  
2 volunteers, 175,000 visitors learned about the Vietnam  
3 Veterans Memorial and observed the names of those who made the  
4 ultimate sacrifice; and

5 WHEREAS, At the age of 75, Herschel Luckinbill died at his  
6 Charlotte, Tennessee home; he is survived by his wife, Eva,  
7 his sons, his grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and several  
8 other family members; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
10 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
11 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the section of  
12 Route 30 in Kendall County from Douglas Road to River Road as  
13 "Herschel Luckinbill Road"; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
15 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
16 state and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
17 giving notice of the name "Herschel Luckinbill Road"; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Herschel Luckinbill and the  
21 Secretary of Transportation.