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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 worked hard  
5 to improve and enhance the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Congressman Rodney Lee Davis was born in Des  
7 Moines, Iowa on January 5, 1970; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis and his family moved to  
9 Taylorville when he was a child; and

10 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis graduated from Taylorville High  
11 School in 1988 and received his Bachelor of Arts in Political  
12 Science from Millikin University in 1992; and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis worked as the projects director  
14 in Congressman John Shimkus' district office for 16 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis was elected to the United  
16 States House of Representative in 2012 to represent the 13th  
17 District in Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, During his time in Congress, Congressman Davis  
19 established himself as an effective lawmaker who could govern

1 and work with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass  
2 legislation, even in a divided government; and

3 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis advocated for the priorities of  
4 the 13th District and Illinois in Washington; since arriving  
5 in Congress, he has served on both the Transportation and  
6 Infrastructure Committee and the Committee on Agriculture,  
7 which allowed him to be a leader on issues essential to  
8 commerce in Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis worked to promote America's  
10 national security and support the men and women of America's  
11 armed forces through the National Defense Authorization Act  
12 (NDAA); he also worked to promote Scott Air Force Base, which  
13 is a vital part of the Metro East community and economy; and

14 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis successfully included language  
15 in the U.S. House version of the 2023 NDAA to protect the C-40C  
16 aircraft and the 932nd Airlift Wing flying mission at Scott  
17 AFB; and

18 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis successfully passed his  
19 Counting All Military Votes Act, which ensures that all  
20 active-duty and deployed military personnel who wish to vote  
21 will have their ballots mailed to their clerks in a timely  
22 manner; and

1           WHEREAS, Congressman Davis also successfully passed the  
2 Fallen Heroes Family Travel Act, which reimburses travel costs  
3 for families of service members who are traveling to obtain  
4 the remains of their loved ones who lost their lives in the  
5 line of duty; and

6           WHEREAS, Congressman Davis wrote and passed the Hire More  
7 Heroes Act, which helps small businesses hire veterans by  
8 amending the Affordable Care Act; it overwhelmingly passed the  
9 U.S. House with more than 400 supporting votes and was signed  
10 into law in July 2015; this, along with his bill, the EACH Act,  
11 are some of the few pieces of legislation signed into law to  
12 amend the Affordable Care Act; and

13           WHEREAS, In 2018, Congressman Davis successfully passed  
14 legislation reforming the Federal Emergency Management  
15 Agency's (FEMA) disaster declaration process to help level the  
16 playing field for rural communities in Illinois and across the  
17 country that are seeking federal aid for disasters; his  
18 legislation, which was signed into law in October 2018,  
19 requires FEMA to place greater consideration on the localized  
20 impact of a natural disaster; and

21           WHEREAS, Congressman Davis is married to Shannon R. Davis  
22 and has three children, Toryn, Clark, and Griffin; and

1           WHEREAS, The expansion of Illinois Route 29 between  
2 Taylorville and Rochester took over two decades of planning  
3 and construction; and

4           WHEREAS, On December 23, 1992, Congressman Davis witnessed  
5 the crash that took the life of Melody Traughber when her car  
6 hit a slick spot on the two-lane road and slid into oncoming  
7 traffic; and

8           WHEREAS, Melody Traughber was one of seven people killed  
9 on Illinois 29 between Springfield and Taylorville from 1988  
10 to 1995, and her death helped spur the creation of Project 29,  
11 a grassroots citizens group that lobbied for the widening of  
12 the road to four lanes; and

13           WHEREAS, Congressman Davis was instrumental in the  
14 planning and public engagement that lead to the widening of  
15 Route 29; therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
18 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Route 29 from  
19 Cardinal Hill Road in Rochester to East 1600 North Road in  
20 Taylorville as the "Congressman Rodney Davis Superhighway";  
21 and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
2           is requested to erect, at suitable locations consistent with  
3           State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
4           giving notice of the name of the "Congressman Rodney Davis  
5           Superhighway"; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
7           presented to Congressman Davis, Taylorville Mayor Bruce Barry,  
8           Rochester Village President Joseph C. Suerdieck, and the  
9           Secretary of Transportation.