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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is appropriate to remember the many sacrifices and contributions to the cause of freedom made by the outstanding men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces; and

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WHEREAS, Corporal Nathan Carlson was born in Rockford; he graduated from Harlem High School in 2019, where he was captain of the swim team; upon graduation, he enlisted into the U.S. Marine Corps and attended boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego; he graduated from boot camp in August 2019 and officially earned the title of Marine; and

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WHEREAS, CPL Carlson then reported to the School of Infantry in Camp Pendleton, California, where he attended Marine Combat Training (MCT); and

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WHEREAS, Upon completing MCT, CPL Carlson attended Naval Aircrew candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, where he received water survival training; in January 2020, he reported to the Center of Naval Aviation Technical Training (CNATT) at Marine Corps Air Station New River, where he learned the basic technical skills of a MV-22B mechanic; upon graduating CNATT, he attended Marine Air Group 26 (MAG-26) for initial crew chief training on the MV-22B at Marine Medium Tiltrotor

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1 Training Squadron 204; on September 11, 2020, he was winged
2 and officially became a Naval Aircrewman; and

3 WHEREAS, In September 2020, CPL Carlson then reported to
4 MAG-39, Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 364 (VMM-364), where,
5 in the course of his duties, he was promoted to the rank of
6 corporal and served as a leader in the Flight Line Division as
7 a Basic Instructor Crew Chief and Plane Captain; and

8 WHEREAS, In October 2020, CPL Carlson participated in
9 Service Level Training Exercise 21-1; in April 2021, he was
10 deployed with the squadron to Special Purpose Marine Air
11 Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Central Command based
12 out of Al Jaber Air Base, Kuwait and Prince Sultan Air Base,
13 Saudi Arabia; and

14 WHEREAS, Upon returning from deployment, CPL Carlson
15 married the love of his life, Emily Baxter; he would go on to
16 begin training to become a Low Altitude Tactics instructor,
17 Night Systems instructor, Tail Gunnery Instructor, and
18 Collateral Duty Inspector; he amassed over 500 total flight
19 hours and over 70 combat hours while at VMM-364; and

20 WHEREAS, CPL Carlson was killed in the line of duty during
21 a military training exercise on June 8, 2022; and

1 WHEREAS, CPL Carlson is survived by his wife, Emily
2 Baxter-Carlson; his parents, Karrie and Eric Carlson; his
3 sisters, Casey and Mylee Carlson; and many close family and
4 friends; and

5 WHEREAS, CPL Carlson will forever be remembered as a
6 loving husband, son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, and
7 friend; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of
11 Alpine Road from Harlem Road to Illinois Route 73 as the "CPL
12 Nathan Carlson Memorial Highway"; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
14 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
15 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
16 giving notice of the name of "CPL Nathan Carlson Memorial
17 Highway"; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of CPL Carlson, the Secretary of
20 Transportation, the Principle of Harlem High School, the
21 Village President of Machesney Park, and the Mayor of Loves
22 Park.