



HR0597

LRB103 39287 MST 69441 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The work of Jan Craig Scruggs is familiar to every person who knows about the Vietnam War and its aftermath; and

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WHEREAS, Jan Scruggs, born on March 11, 1950 in Maryland, was of an age to serve in this most divisive of all conflicts; and

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WHEREAS, Assigned to the 12th Infantry Regiment as a corporal, Jan Scruggs served in-country for prolonged tours of duty; wounded in action, he was awarded the Purple Heart; for valor in action, he was repeatedly decorated for his services; and

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WHEREAS, As a civilian after leaving the United States Army, Jan Scruggs fully experienced many of the challenges that Vietnam War veterans saw when they returned home; the overall pattern of public life in the United States in the late 1970s sought to ignore this war and to diminish or even belittle the men and women who had fought in it; and

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WHEREAS, To counter this pattern, on April 27, 1979, Jan Scruggs and a small group of fellow veterans began the work of creating the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to erect

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1 one or more tangible memorials to serve as memories of the  
2 services performed by veterans of this war; and

3 WHEREAS, To the surprise of skeptics, Jan Scruggs's  
4 advocacy generated an expression of grass-roots national  
5 determination that the services of Vietnam War veterans be  
6 recognized and honored; this movement led to the allocation of  
7 one of the most significant locations in Washington, D.C., the  
8 National Mall, home of installations such as the Lincoln  
9 Memorial, as a suitable place for a Vietnam Veterans Memorial;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington,  
12 D.C., dedicated on Veterans Day 1982, carries the names of  
13 more than 58,000 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in  
14 the Vietnam War; and

15 WHEREAS, After the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was  
16 completed, Jan Scruggs rededicated himself to the work of  
17 maintaining and expanding the work of community remembrance in  
18 locations throughout America for Vietnam veterans, all  
19 veterans of the United States armed services, and all persons  
20 who have fallen in defense of the United States of America and  
21 its communities, including persons who made the ultimate  
22 sacrifice on and after 9/11/01; and

1           WHEREAS, The people of Illinois owe an enduring debt of  
2 gratitude to Jan Scruggs and his work, and it is agreed that  
3 his work, and the work of his comrades in and out of arms, to  
4 remember these sacrifices must never be forgotten; therefore,  
5 be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
8 we recognize Jan Craig Scruggs for his work on behalf of his  
9 fellow Vietnam veterans, his fellow United States veterans of  
10 all wars, and especially his work on behalf of the people he  
11 had to leave behind when he came home; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That as we recognize and express our gratitude  
13 to Jan Craig Scruggs, we are also recognizing and expressing  
14 our gratitude to every warrior who has fought for America or  
15 who has worn any of the uniforms that signify service to our  
16 country, especially those who have been wounded in this  
17 service, and particularly to those who have made the ultimate  
18 sacrifice for their service; and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to Jan Scruggs as a symbol of our respect and esteem.