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1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that we remember those who 3 contributed to the betterment of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur was born in Indian Village,

St. Francois, Lower Canada on March 14, 1814, one of 6 children

of Charles and Luch Laur; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur emigrated from Canada to 8 Lincoln, Massachusetts in 1833; six years later, after working 9 in Massachusetts, he began flat-boating on the Ohio and 10 Mississippi rivers, hauling merchandise from Pittsburgh, 11 Pennsylvania to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he would sell the merchandise, dismantle the boat, sell the lumber, and 12 13 return on foot by way of the Natchez Trace, which was being 14 traversed by a constant stream of boatman during that era; and

WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur established a permanent home in Knob Prairie in Jefferson County in 1841; and

WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur mustered into the Union Army
on October 19, 1861 as a First Lieutenant in Company K,

Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, commanded by Col. W.R.

Morrison; and

- 1 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur was promoted to Captain on
- June 10, 1862 and thus earned the nickname "Cap"; he fought at
- 3 the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth, the Red River
- 4 expedition, and the siege of Vicksburg; he was injured in
- 5 combat and discharged in September of 1865; and
- 6 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur was awarded the contract on
- 7 Star Route 11799 and served each post office from Ashley to
- 8 Moore's Prairie; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur died on June 8, 1895; during
- 10 his time, Williamsburg became Old Town and was superseded by
- 11 Waltonville; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Captain Joseph Laur's service to the United
- 13 States and the State of Illinois has greatly benefited the
- 14 surrounding communities; therefore, be it
- 15 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
- 16 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
- 17 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Big
- 18 Muddy Bridge east of Waltonville on IL Route 148 as the
- "Captain Joseph Laur Memorial Bridge"; and be it further
- 20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
- 21 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with

- 1 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
- 2 giving notice of the name "Captain Joseph Laur Memorial
- 3 Bridge"; and be it further
- 4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
- 5 presented to the Secretary of the Department of
- 6 Transportation, the Mayor of Waltonville, and the family of
- 7 Captain Joseph Laur.