



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Major  
4 Arthur "Artie" Gene Ecklund; and

5 WHEREAS, Arthur "Artie" Ecklund was born in Galesburg on  
6 May 5, 1943; and

7 WHEREAS, Major Ecklund was drafted into the United States  
8 Army in 1966, attended basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas, and  
9 was later commissioned as an officer at Fort Sill Oklahoma; and

10 WHEREAS, Major Ecklund completed helicopter training at  
11 Fort Walters, Texas and Fort Rucker, Alabama; he graduated from  
12 training as a Huey gunship pilot to later serve his country as  
13 an Army air control pilot in Vietnam; and

14 WHEREAS, Major Ecklund arrived in Vietnam in November 1968  
15 with the 183rd Aviation Company of the United States Army's 1st  
16 Aviation Brigade; and

17 WHEREAS, On April 3, 1969, Major Ecklund and his U.S. Air  
18 Force observer, Captain Perry Jefferson, were flying a visual  
19 reconnaissance mission out of Phan Pang airbase when their  
20 helicopter was shot down by enemy fire; and

21 WHEREAS, Thirty-five years to the date of his  
22 disappearance, on April 3, 2004, Major Ecklund was laid to  
23 rest; and

24 WHEREAS, The family of Artie Ecklund remember him as a  
25 devoted and generous son and brother, as well as an ambitious  
26 and self sufficient individual; and

27 WHEREAS, 9,087,000 United States military personnel

1 courageously served their nation in the conflict in Vietnam;  
2 58,169 military personnel were killed in the line of duty and  
3 1,870 were declared to be missing in action from this conflict;  
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
6 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
7 honor Major Arthur "Artie" Ecklund along with all who knew and  
8 loved him and extend our sincere condolences to his family,  
9 friends, and community; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we honor the memory of Major Arthur Ecklund  
11 and his willingness to serve our country, which led to him  
12 making the ultimate sacrifice; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Major Arthur Ecklund as an  
15 expression of our deepest sympathy and appreciation.