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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Korean War has played an important part in American history; the veterans of the Korean War have earned the respect and admiration of all people; and

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WHEREAS, An armed conflict that began in June of 1950 and ended in July of 1953, the Korean War exacted a heavy toll; 33,629 Americans were killed in action and 20,617 died of injuries or disease; and

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WHEREAS, The Korean War began when the United Nations urged its members to repel the Communist aggressors in Korea; in July of 1950, the UN Security Council recommended that all member nations contributing to the defense of South Korea make their troops available to a unified command headed by the United States; and

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WHEREAS, It is appropriate for us to remember the many sacrifices and contributions to the cause of freedom made by the outstanding men and women who served in the Korean War; and

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WHEREAS, The date of June 25, 2010 commemorates the 60th anniversary of the start of the Korean War; July 17, 2013 will mark the 60th anniversary of the armistice that ended the conflict; and

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1 WHEREAS, William G. Windrich, James I. Poynter, Lester
2 Hammond, John E. Kilmer, Louis J. Sebille, William F. Dean,
3 Edward C. Krzyzowski, and Richard G. Wilson, all of whom hailed
4 from Illinois, were awarded the Medal of Honor for their heroic
5 actions during the Korean War; and

6 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant William Gordon Windrich was
7 awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his outstanding
8 heroism as a platoon sergeant during the Battle of Chosin
9 Reservoir; and

10 WHEREAS, William Windrich was born on May 14, 1921 in
11 Chicago; he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve
12 on June 6, 1938, and was ordered to active duty in November of
13 1940; and

14 WHEREAS, During World War II, William Windrich spent 20
15 months overseas in the south and central Pacific as a machine
16 gunner with the 2nd and 5th Defense Battalions; after his
17 discharge in November of 1945, he reenlisted in the United
18 States Marine Corps in February of 1946; and

19 WHEREAS, At the outbreak of the Korean War, SSgt. Windrich
20 was on military police chief duty at Camp Pendleton in
21 California; he subsequently went overseas with the 1st

1 Provisional Marine Brigade and was among the first Marines to
2 see action in Korea; he also participated in the Inchon landing
3 and in the capture of Seoul; and

4 WHEREAS, SSgt. Windrich was killed in action the early
5 morning of December 2, 1950, near Yudam-ni, North Korea, during
6 a savage night battle with Chinese communist forces on Hill
7 1520; he refused to be evacuated, even after being wounded
8 twice, once when a grenade fragment ripped through his helmet
9 and later when he was felled by gunshot wounds in the legs;
10 instead, he directed his men in setting up defensive positions
11 and shouted words of encouragement until he succumbed to his
12 wounds and the bitter cold; and

13 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor, the United States' highest
14 award for valor in combat, was presented to SSgt. Windrich's
15 widow by Secretary of the Navy Daniel A. Kimball during
16 ceremonies on February 8, 1952; he is now buried at Arlington
17 National Cemetery; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant James Irsley Poynter was born on December
19 1, 1916 in Bloomington; he enlisted in the United States Marine
20 Corps in February of 1942; and

21 WHEREAS, James Poynter fought in the Pacific theatre during
22 World War II and participated in the Guadalcanal, Southern

1 Solomons, Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa campaigns; he was
2 discharged in February of 1946; and

3 WHEREAS, At the beginning of the Korean War, Sgt. Poynter
4 re-enlisted in the Marine Corps and joined the Marine Corps
5 Reserve 13th Infantry Battalion in Los Angeles on July 19,
6 1950; he arrived in Korea in time to aid in the recapture of
7 Seoul after the Inchon landing; and

8 WHEREAS, Sgt. Poynter was awarded the Bronze Star with
9 Combat "V" for "outstanding leadership, ability and courageous
10 aggressiveness against the enemy" as a squad leader during
11 actions on September 24 to October 4, 1950; and

12 WHEREAS, On November 4, 1950, Sgt. Poynter served as squad
13 leader of Company A of the 7th Marine Regiment; while defending
14 Hill 532, south of Sudong, Korea, he was wounded in
15 hand-to-hand combat; in spite of his wounds, upon seeing 3
16 machine guns setting up only 25 yards away, he charged the
17 enemy position with hand grenades from fallen comrades; he was
18 able to take out all 3 machine gun crews by sacrificing his own
19 life; and

20 WHEREAS, Sgt. Poynter's heroic actions enabled his
21 outnumbered platoon to beat off the enemy assault and move to
22 more defensible positions; he was awarded the Medal of Honor

1 for his actions on November 4, 1950, and was buried with full
2 military honors in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in San
3 Diego, California; and

4 WHEREAS, Corporal Lester Hammond, Jr. was born on March 25,
5 1931, in Wayland, Missouri, and entered service in Quincy; he
6 served as a radio operator with Company A of the United States
7 Army's 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team; and

8 WHEREAS, Cpl. Hammond was serving with the 187th near
9 Kumhwa, Korea, on August 14, 1952; the combat team had
10 penetrated about 3,500 yards into enemy-held territory when the
11 small American patrol was ambushed and surrounded by a larger
12 enemy force; the team fought its way up a narrow ravine in
13 search of cover; Hammond was wounded during the initial
14 exchange of gunfire, but remained in the open so he could call
15 in artillery fire that helped repulse several enemy attacks;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Despite being wounded a second time, Cpl. Hammond
18 continued to direct the artillery fire until a friendly platoon
19 was able to reach his patrol and help them withdraw; Cpl.
20 Hammond died from his injuries, but the members of his patrol
21 owed him their lives for the heroic decisions he made that day;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Cpl. Lester Hammond Jr. was awarded the Medal of
2 Honor for valor in combat for his actions on August 14, 1952;
3 after his initial burial in Quincy's Greenmount Cemetery, his
4 casket was moved to Sunset Cemetery at the Illinois Veterans
5 Home in Quincy in 1983; and

6 WHEREAS, John Edward Kilmer was born on August 15, 1930, in
7 Highland Park; he enlisted in the United States Navy on August
8 16, 1947 as an apprentice seaman, and attended the Hospital
9 Corps School in San Diego, California; after graduating in
10 April of 1948, he was promoted to the rank of hospitalman
11 apprentice; he was subsequently promoted to the rank of
12 hospitalman on September 1, 1950; and

13 WHEREAS, Hospitalman Kilmer was assigned to the hospital
14 ship USS Repose (AH-16) when war broke out in Korea; after his
15 enlistment term expired in August of 1951, he soon rejoined the
16 Navy and joined the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Fleet Marine
17 Forces after completing instruction at the Field Medical School
18 at Camp Pendleton, California; and

19 WHEREAS, On August 12, 1952, Hospitalman Kilmer took part
20 in the attack on "Bunker Hill" in Korea; he attended to the
21 wounded during the battle and was himself mortally wounded
22 after using his body to shield another man from enemy fire; for
23 this action, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, On June 18, 1953, Hospitalman Kilmer's mother,
3 Lois Kilmer, was presented with her son's Medal of Honor by
4 Secretary of the Navy Robert Bernard Anderson; he was buried in
5 San Jose Burial Park, San Antonio, Texas, with full military
6 honors; and

7 WHEREAS, Louis Joseph "Lou" Sebille was born on November
8 21, 1915, in Harbor Beach, Michigan; he attended Wayne State
9 University in Detroit, Michigan; after his graduation, he moved
10 to Chicago in the 1930s; and

11 WHEREAS, Louis Sebille enlisted in the United States Army
12 Air Corps several days after the December 7, 1941 attack on
13 Pearl Harbor; and

14 WHEREAS, Louis Sebille flew 68 combat missions during World
15 War II as a B-26 bomber pilot; in the fall of 1948, he became
16 the commanding officer of the 67th Squadron of the 18th
17 Fighter-Bomber Group; after the Korean War began, his squadron
18 was one of the first to be sent to Japan; and

19 WHEREAS, On August 5, 1950, during a close air support
20 mission, anti-aircraft fire damaged Louis Sebille's F-51;
21 rather than abandon his aircraft, he continued his attack under

1 heavy fire; after his aircraft was again damaged, he dove to
2 his death onto the enemy gun battery; and

3 WHEREAS, Louis Sebille was formally awarded the Medal of
4 Honor in a ceremony at March Air Force Base in Riverside
5 County, California, in late August of 1951; General Hoyt
6 Vandenberg, the United States Air Force Chief of Staff,
7 presented the medal to Sebille's widowed wife and 19 month old
8 son; Sebille was buried at Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park
9 with full military honors; and

10 WHEREAS, Louis Sebille was the first person in the Air
11 Force to be awarded the medal since the branch's creation in
12 1947; only 4 Air Force personnel would win the medal for action
13 during the Korean War, all of them posthumously; and

14 WHEREAS, William Frishe Dean, Sr. was born on August 1,
15 1899, in Carlyle; and

16 WHEREAS, William Dean graduated from the University of
17 California at Berkeley in 1922; after being commissioned as a
18 second lieutenant in the California National Guard in 1921, he
19 was tendered a regular Army commission on October 18, 1923; he
20 was subsequently promoted to brigadier general in 1942 and then
21 to major general in 1943; he later served first as assistant
22 division commander and later as division commander of the 44th

1 Infantry Division; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1944, while serving in southern Germany and
3 Austria, Major General Dean's troops captured 30,000 prisoners
4 and helped force the surrender of the German 19th Army; he won
5 the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery during that action;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In October of 1947, Major General Dean became the
8 military governor of South Korea; in 1948, he took command of
9 the 7th Infantry Division and moved it from Korea to Japan; and

10 WHEREAS, After serving as chief of staff of the U.S. 8th
11 Army, Major General Dean took command of the 24th Infantry
12 Division, then headquartered at Kokura on the southern Japanese
13 island of Kyushu, in October of 1949; when the Korean War began
14 in June of 1950, the 24th Infantry Division was the first
15 American ground combat unit to be committed; and

16 WHEREAS, Major General Dean arrived in Korea on July 3,
17 1950, and established his headquarters at Taejon; his orders
18 were to fight a delaying action against the advancing North
19 Korean People's Army; and

20 WHEREAS, Although he planned to withdraw from Taejon, Major
21 General Dean was asked by General Walton H. Walker, the

1 commander of the U.S. 8th Army, to hold that city until July
2 20, 1950, in order to buy time necessary for deploying other
3 American units from Japan; his regiments had been decimated in
4 earlier fighting, and Dean personally led tank killer teams
5 armed with the newly arrived 3.5-inch rocket launchers to
6 destroy the attacking North Korean T-34 tanks; he gained
7 acclaim through exploits such as attacking and destroying an
8 enemy tank armed with only a hand grenade and a handgun; and

9 WHEREAS, On July 20, 1950, as his division fell back from
10 Taejon, Major General Dean became separated from his men,
11 forcing him to travel alone in the woods around the countryside
12 during the day and traveling at night for over a month; on
13 August 25, 1950, after a hand to hand struggle with 15 North
14 Koreans, he was captured; he remained a POW with the North
15 Koreans until his release on September 4, 1953; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1951, Congress voted to bestow the Medal of
17 Honor to Major General Dean for his actions during the defense
18 of Taejon; on January 9, 1951, the medal was given to his wife,
19 Mildred Dean, his son, William Dean Jr., and his daughter,
20 Marjorie June Dean, by President Harry Truman; Major General
21 Dean was still reported missing in action in Korea; and

22 WHEREAS, After the July 27, 1953 Armistice Agreement, Major
23 General Dean remained in North Korea as a prisoner of war for

1 several more months while the armistice was finalized; he was
2 returned to UN forces at Panmunjom during Operation Big Switch
3 on September 4, 1953; and

4 WHEREAS, Three months after his return from Korea, Major
5 General Dean was assigned as the Deputy Commanding General of
6 the United States 6th Army at the Presidio of San Francisco in
7 California; he held this post for 2 years until his retirement
8 from active duty on October 31, 1955; upon retirement, he was
9 awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for his front line service
10 in World War II and Korea; and

11 WHEREAS, Major General Dean lived a quiet life in San
12 Francisco after his retirement, and died on August 24, 1981, at
13 the age of 82; he was buried in San Francisco National Cemetery
14 in the Presidio of San Francisco, next to his wife; and

15 WHEREAS, Edward C. Krzyzowski was born on January 16, 1914,
16 in Chicago; he served as a captain in the United States Army's
17 Company B, 9th Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Captain Krzyzowski was awarded the Medal of Honor
20 posthumously for his service near Tondul, Korea from August 31
21 to September 3, 1951; and

1 WHEREAS, Captain Krzyzowski distinguished himself by
2 conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage above and beyond
3 the call of duty in action against the enemy as commanding
4 officer of Company B; spearheading an assault against strongly
5 defended Hill 700, his company came under vicious crossfire and
6 grenade attack from enemy bunkers; creeping up the fire-swept
7 hill, he personally eliminated one bunker with his grenades and
8 wiped out a second with carbine fire; forced to retire to more
9 tenable positions for the night, his company resumed the attack
10 the following day, gaining several hundred yards and inflicting
11 numerous casualties; once overwhelmed by the numerically
12 superior hostile force, he ordered his men to evacuate the
13 wounded and move back; providing protective fire for their safe
14 withdrawal, he was wounded again by grenade fragments, but
15 refused evacuation and continued to direct the defense; and

16 WHEREAS, Captain Krzyzowski was buried with full military
17 honors at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleums in
18 Justice; and

19 WHEREAS, Richard Gene Wilson was born on August 19, 1931,
20 in Marion; after his junior year, he left high school to join
21 the Army; he enlisted on August 19, 1948, his 17th birthday,
22 and just before leaving for Korea, he married Yvonna Lea Fowler
23 on August 29, 1950; and

1 WHEREAS, Richard Wilson served in Korea as a private first
2 class with the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment; on October 21,
3 1950, he was attached to Company I when the unit was ambushed
4 while conducting a reconnaissance in force mission near Opa-ri;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, PFC Wilson exposed himself to hostile fire in
7 order to treat the many casualties; when the company began to
8 withdraw, he helped evacuate the wounded; after the withdrawal
9 was complete, he learned that a soldier left behind and
10 believed dead had been spotted trying to crawl to safety;
11 unarmed and against the advice of his comrades, he returned to
12 the ambush site in an attempt to rescue the wounded man; and

13 WHEREAS, PFC Wilson's body was found 2 days later, lying
14 next to that of the man he had tried to save; for these
15 actions, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on
16 August 2, 1951; and

17 WHEREAS, Several U.S. military buildings have been named in
18 PFC Wilson's honor, including the Richard G. Wilson Memorial
19 Gymnasium in the Kanoka Barracks near Osaka, Japan; the Richard
20 G. Wilson U.S. Army Reserve Center in Marion; the PFC Richard
21 G. Wilson Training Barracks at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; the
22 Richard G. Wilson Consolidated Troop Medical Clinic in Fort
23 Leonard Wood, Missouri; and the Wilson Theater in Fort

1 Campbell, Kentucky; among the memorials in his honor are
2 "America's Medical Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen in Peace and
3 War" by Eloise Engle (1967) and a memorial to Wilson in Cape
4 County Park (1988); other structures named for him include the
5 Richard G. Wilson Elementary School in Fort Benning, Georgia,
6 and a postal distribution center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Illinois Route 136 is an east-west road in
9 northwestern Illinois; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Illinois Route 136
13 as the Illinois Korean War Medal of Honor Highway in honor of
14 the memory and sacrifices of William G. Windrich, James I.
15 Poynter, Lester Hammond, John E. Kilmer, Louis J. Sebille,
16 William F. Dean, Edward C. Krzyzowski, and Richard G. Wilson;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
19 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
20 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
21 giving notice of the name of the Illinois Korean War Medal of
22 Honor Highway; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
3 Transportation, the families of William G. Windrich, James I.
4 Poynter, Lester Hammond, John E. Kilmer, Louis J. Sebille,
5 William F. Dean, Edward C. Krzyzowski, and Richard G. Wilson,
6 and Hershall E. Lee, KW60 Ambassador of the United States
7 Department of Defense.