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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General
3 Assembly pays honor and respect to the truly great individuals
4 who have served our country and, in doing so, have gone above
5 and beyond the call of duty to take part in truly heroic tasks;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Of the millions of men and women who have served
8 this country with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast
9 Guard, only 3,468 have ever been awarded the highest military
10 decoration awarded by the United States government, the Medal
11 of Honor; and

12 WHEREAS, The Medal of Honor is awarded for conspicuous
13 gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of one's life above and
14 beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against any
15 enemy of the United States, while engaged in military
16 operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force,
17 or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an
18 armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the
19 United States is not a belligerent party; and

20 WHEREAS, It is a true honor for an individual to be awarded
21 the Medal of Honor and serves to distinguish those individuals
22 as true American heroes; and

1 WHEREAS, Allen J. Lynch was born on October 28, 1945, in
2 Chicago; he grew up in the Lake Eliza area of Indiana, where he
3 attended Union Center Elementary School and Wheeler Junior High
4 School; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school, Allen Lynch
6 joined the United States Army in 1964; he was later sent to
7 Vietnam in the fall of 1966 and was assigned to the 12th
8 Cavalry; he served as a rifleman for several months before
9 becoming his platoon's radiotelephone operator; and

10 WHEREAS, On December 15, 1967, Allen Lynch was serving as a
11 specialist four in Company D, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 12th
12 Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile);
13 during a firefight near the Binh Dinh Province of Vietnam, he
14 saw 3 wounded soldiers out in the open who were under intense
15 enemy fire; he quickly dropped his radio and went to help the
16 soldiers; under intense fire, he carried the wounded soldiers
17 to safety and single-handedly defended them against the
18 advancing enemy force for several hours; and

19 WHEREAS, Following this courageous action, Allen Lynch was
20 subsequently promoted to the rank of sergeant and awarded the
21 Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in
22 action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of

1 duty; and

2 WHEREAS, Allen Lynch's quick thinking and disregard for his
3 own safety were vital in saving those lives, but his fight on
4 behalf of his fellow soldiers did not end on the battlefield;
5 after the war, he settled in Gurnee and worked for the
6 Department of Veterans Affairs, where he advocated for
7 increased benefits for disabled veterans; he later served as
8 chief of the Illinois Attorney General's Veterans Rights Bureau
9 until his retirement in 2005; and

10 WHEREAS, Allen Lynch continues his dedication to our nation
11 as a volunteer with the Vietnam Veterans of America
12 organization; he serves as the liaison for the Congressional
13 Medal of Honor Society and frequently gives speeches at
14 military-related events; he also performs ministry work with
15 the Lake County Jail; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
18 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Grand Avenue
19 Overpass over Interstate 94 in Gurnee as the "Allen J. Lynch
20 Congressional Medal of Honor Overpass"; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That upon completion of any unfinished sections
22 of highway, the Illinois Department of Transportation is

1 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State
2 and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving
3 notice of the name; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
5 presented to Allen J. Lynch, his family, the Village of Gurnee,
6 the Lake County Board, the Lake County Veterans Assistance
7 Commission, the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
8 Transportation, and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.