



HR0711

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Vietnam veteran Herschel Luckinbill led efforts to bring the Vietnam Moving Wall back to Aurora for the first time in 24 years; and

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WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill is known for accompanying World War II veterans on Honor Flights to Washington D.C. and leading numerous other veterans' activities; and

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WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill, who served on the first American ship to receive gunfire during the Vietnam War, has said that having the wall come to Aurora means everything for the local veterans; and

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WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill led the efforts to bring the wall to Aurora as a way to honor his fallen shipmates; and

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WHEREAS, The Moving Wall is engraved with the names of 58,282 who perished in the Vietnam War or are still unaccounted for (Prisoners of War and Missing in Action); the 254-foot wall is a 3/5 size mobile replica of the Washington D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

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WHEREAS, The Moving Wall was conceived and built by three California-based Vietnam vets who wished to publicly share the

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1 emotional power and experience that one of them felt during the
2 1982 dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and

3 WHEREAS, Herschel Luckinbill arranged for the Moving Wall
4 to be on display at the West Aurora High School practice soccer
5 fields from November 7 to November 11, 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, The Moving Wall was escorted into the West Aurora
7 High School soccer facilities by more than 200 motorcycle
8 riding veterans and volunteers on November 7, 2013; the opening
9 ceremonies for the Moving Wall began on November 8, 2013 at 10
10 A.M.; and

11 WHEREAS, A ceremony was held at the Moving Wall on November
12 9, 2013 to recognize and honor families who have lost loved
13 ones in war; a non-denominational healing service was held on
14 November 10, 2013 at the Moving Wall; and

15 WHEREAS, The Aurora Veterans Day Parade made a stop at the
16 Moving Wall during its route on November 11, 2013; a wreath
17 laying ceremony for all branches of the military was held at
18 the Moving Wall before the closing ceremonies at dusk on
19 November 11, 2013; and

20 WHEREAS, Two recipients of the Medal of Honor were present
21 and spoke during the Moving Wall ceremonies; and

1 WHEREAS, Volunteers filled a nearby field with over 2000
2 American flags, deemed the "healing field"; and

3 WHEREAS, Numerous veterans visited the Moving Wall in
4 remembrance of fallen colleagues and friends and were
5 noticeably emotional during the 5-day event; and

6 WHEREAS, Between 100,000 and 200,000 people visited the
7 Moving Wall during the 5-day memorial; more than 1,000
8 volunteers worked 45 different shifts to make the event
9 possible; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we honor Herschel Luckinbill for his service to our country and
13 recognize his continued work to recognize the service and
14 sacrifices of Illinois veterans; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Herschel Luckinbill as an expression of our esteem
17 and respect.