



HR1116

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The POW-MIA National Chair of Honor "One Empty
3 Seat" is an initiative that was created to help recognize and
4 honor more than 92,000 American soldiers who have been
5 unaccounted for since World War I; and

6 WHEREAS, These unoccupied seats are dedicated to the memory
7 of the brave men and women and to the sacrifices each of them
8 made serving our country; and

9 WHEREAS, The Chair of Honor will remain perpetually empty,
10 symbolizing those American prisoners of war and those missing
11 in action who may never return; and

12 WHEREAS, The Chair of Honor serves as a reminder to all of
13 the sacrifices that the men and women serving in the Armed
14 Forces have made to ensure our continued freedom and way of
15 life; and

16 WHEREAS, The first Chair of Honor was installed and
17 dedicated at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro, Massachusetts on
18 Veterans Day in 2012; and

19 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the Rolling Thunder organization and
20 Hussey Seating, the program has expanded rapidly, with chairs

1 now dedicated in municipal buildings, county courthouses,
2 state capitals, public facilities, professional and college
3 sports stadiums, and even the USS Constitution; and

4 WHEREAS, The object is to place a black chair in a
5 prominent location to enhance Rolling Thunder's mission of
6 keeping the memories of imprisoned and missing soldiers alive;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Over 91,000 service personnel who never came home,
9 whether they were prisoners of war or missing in action, were
10 honored with the unveiling of a Chair of Honor in Newton; and

11 WHEREAS, Frank Hull, the founder of Olney Rolling Thunder
12 Chapter 3, says the Newton chair is the 13th structure his
13 group has placed in downstate Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, Formed in April of 2011, Rolling Thunder Chapter 3
15 Illinois is a class 501 (c) (4) nonprofit organization serving a
16 13-county area in southeastern Illinois; and

17 WHEREAS, On September 3, 2013, the group received their
18 Rolling Thunder, Inc. charter and became one of over 90
19 chartered chapters throughout the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, By educating the public that many prisoners of war

1 and missing in action soldiers were left behind, the past will
2 be preserved and the future generations of servicemen and women
3 will be protected; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
6 honor Olney Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 for publicizing the
7 POW-MIA issue, for educating the public that many prisoners of
8 war and missing in action soldiers are left behind, and their
9 continued commitment to helping American veterans from all
10 wars; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to Olney Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 as a symbol of our
13 esteem and respect.