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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly are proud to honor those who have given their lives to the defense of our nation; and

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WHEREAS, Lance Cpl. Richard Charles "Ricky" Bennett was born on August 1, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan; his parents were Edwin and June Bennett; he and his family moved to Wood River when he was in grade school; after graduating from East Alton-Wood River High School, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps; he passed away on August 10, 1967 from injuries suffered by enemy explosion fragments while on water detail in Thua Thien; and

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WHEREAS, Lance Cpl. Chris A. Tatora was born on October 7, 1948 at Alton Memorial Hospital in Alton; his parents were Anthony and Rosemary Tatora; he was raised in Wood River and attended East Alton-Wood River High School, where he was active in football and wrestling and graduated in 1966; he joined the United States Marine Corps in August of 1966 and underwent Basic Training at Camp Pendleton in California; he passed away on October 25, 1967 in Danang from injuries sustained after an explosion while on patrol in the Quang Nam Province; and

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WHEREAS, PFC Jim Stassi also attended East Alton-Wood River

1 Community High School and enlisted in the Marines following his  
2 graduation in 1965; he was killed on June 27, 1967 in South  
3 Vietnam from injuries suffered by an enemy landmine; he was 19  
4 years old; and

5 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper to pay tribute to these  
6 courageous men and their great sacrifice in the name of  
7 liberty; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
10 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of Illinois  
11 Route 143 from the Phoebe Goldberg Overpass to Sixth Street as  
12 the "Lance Cpl. Chris Tatora Memorial Highway"; and be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That we designate the portion of Illinois Route  
15 143 from Sixth Street to East Edwardsville Road as the "USMC  
16 Lance Cpl. Richard Bennett Memorial Highway"; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we designate the portion of Illinois Route  
18 143 from East Edwardsville Road to the I-255 overpass as the  
19 "PFC Jim Stassi Memorial Highway"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
21 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with

1 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
2 giving notice of these names; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of  
5 Transportation and the families of Lance Cpl. Richard Bennett,  
6 Lance Cpl. Chris Totoro, and PFC Jim Stassi.