



HJ0036

LRB101 11129 MST 56355 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton was born in his grandfather's home
3 in Pocahontas on July 4, 1930; and

4 WHEREAS, Coming from a very poor background, Richard
5 Clayton started working at the age of 10 to support his
6 grandparents; in 1943, he worked at the Hartfield Show Tannery
7 for \$0.82 cents an hour; and

8 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton graduated from Pocahontas High
9 School, where he was a star basketball player; he enrolled in
10 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, but his family's
11 finances did not allow him to stay and earn a degree; he
12 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1950, achieving
13 the rank of sergeant and serving honorably until his discharge
14 in 1952; and

15 WHEREAS, After being discharged from the Marines, Richard
16 Clayton worked as a carpenter at Granite City Steel in
17 Collinsville; he was a construction foreman for various
18 companies until becoming a superintendent with Gorman & Sons in
19 East St. Louis; and

20 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton married Marjory Ellen Hicks in
21 December of 1953; Marjory's career spanned 31 years teaching at

1 Highland Junior and Senior High Schools; Richard built a house
2 for his family on four acres of a former corn field along Route
3 160 between Highland and Grantfork, where he and his wife
4 raised two children, Warren and Patty; and

5 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton's career became focused on
6 highway bridge construction in Southern Illinois, working for
7 the Bituminous Fuel Oil Company in Collinsville, and later as a
8 bridge inspector for the State of Illinois for a short time;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton then worked with the Hoefken
11 Brothers in Belleville for 10 years; when the owner, John
12 Hoefken, left the company and started Mississippi Valley
13 Materials, Richard joined him and finished his career at the
14 new company; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1985, Richard Clayton took early retirement and
16 started Chipwood Acres Nursery with his wife on their property
17 along Route 160; it was a successful tree and plant nursery for
18 20 years where they shared their landscaping talents with the
19 local community by providing landscaping design, trees,
20 foundation shrubs, flowering perennial and annual plants for
21 sale, and personal landscape advice that you could not get
22 anywhere else; and

1 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton and Marjory retired from the
2 nursery in 2005; Marjory passed away in April of 2017; and

3 WHEREAS, Richard Clayton remains on their acreage along
4 Route 160 still maintaining his green thumb; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
7 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that, in honor of his contribution to
8 the betterment of the State, we designate the bridge on Route
9 160 between Highland and Grantfork in Madison County crossing
10 over I-70 as the "Richard Clayton Bridge"; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
12 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
13 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
14 giving notice of the name "Richard Clayton Bridge"; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
17 presented to Richard Clayton, Highland Mayor Joseph R.
18 Michaelis, and the Secretary of Transportation.