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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 those who have made a
4 difference in their community and in Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Brooks Edwin Tonn was born on August 29, 2007, the
6 beloved son of Nora (Keenan) and Robert Tonn; and

7 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn grew up in Hinsdale, where he excelled
8 in academics at school and in sports; he was always first to be
9 on the field and was always ready for a pick-up game or to
10 watch the others play; he was the pitcher on his beloved
11 baseball team, the Hinsdale Red Dogs, and quarterback on his
12 Hinsdale Falcons football team; he loved playing golf and
13 swimming; and

14 WHEREAS, In December of 2016, Brooks Tonn was diagnosed
15 with rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare form of childhood cancer; and

16 WHEREAS, Cancer did not stop Brooks Tonn's dedication to
17 those around him or the sports he loved, especially baseball;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn even timed his cancer treatments so he
20 could attend school and play the sports he loved; and

1 WHEREAS, During the year of his medical treatments, Brooks
2 Tonn, a lifelong baseball fan, played in 54 games for his
3 cherished Red Dogs, the Hinsdale Little League, and the
4 Hinsdale All Stars; and

5 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn made sure that all kids were welcome
6 in any game he played; and

7 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn was introduced to Jason Garrett, the
8 head coach of the Dallas Cowboys; after their first meeting,
9 they became fast friends, and Garrett gave Brooks his personal
10 phone number, so they could keep in touch through text; and

11 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn was given the opportunity to fly to
12 Dallas to meet the Dallas Cowboys and watch a private practice;
13 he was presented with the game ball, which made him forget how
14 much discomfort he felt from his treatments; and

15 WHEREAS, Anthony Rizzo of the Chicago Cubs, a survivor of
16 cancer himself, visited Brooks Tonn and sat with him while he
17 was receiving chemotherapy treatments; and

18 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn lived by the motto "Have Courage and
19 Be Kind," and his community rallied behind him and that belief;
20 and

1 WHEREAS, From the day Brooks Tonn was diagnosed to his last
2 moments, Reverend Wayne Watts was present, offering spiritual
3 support for the entire family; and

4 WHEREAS, During his treatments, Brooks Tonn met many
5 wonderful people who helped him and his family cope with the
6 difficulties he faced on a daily basis; dozens of family
7 members and friends joined together to offer a meal-prep
8 service to his whole family for months, giving them the
9 opportunity to focus on the fight they were facing; and

10 WHEREAS, Local newspapers published stories about Brooks
11 Tonn while he was in the earlier stages of his treatment;
12 through a friend, his story was shared with actress and
13 director Lisa Varga, who interviewed Brooks and developed a
14 documentary about his fight against cancer; and

15 WHEREAS, Brooks Tonn passed away peacefully on December 1,
16 2017 and is survived by his loving parents; he was the dear
17 brother of Hunter, Griffin, and Scarlett; the cherished
18 grandson of Nancy and William Brooks Keenan and Barbara and
19 Donald Tonn; the cherished nephew of Betsy and Brian Moran,
20 Bill and Denise Keenan, Trish and Patrick Kinsella, Dan and
21 Tracey Keenan, Tom and Danielle Keenan, and Donald Jr. and Kari
22 Tonn; the dearest cousin of Kate and Christian Arquilla, Finn

1 Arquilla, Jack, Christopher, and Nora Moran, William IV and
2 Hannah Keenan, Genevieve, Patrick Cass, and Colette Kinsella,
3 Christopher, Lauren, Jane, and Ben Keenan, Patrick, Caroline,
4 and Sean Keenan, Lindsey Kaplan-Herman, and Amanda Tonn; and

5 WHEREAS, Following Brooks Tonn's passing, more than 2,000
6 friends, family, dignitaries, and community members attended
7 his memorial service and funeral; and

8 WHEREAS, The Brooks Strong Foundation was formed in memory
9 of Brooks Tonn; and

10 WHEREAS, The Brooks Strong Foundation funds cutting-edge
11 pediatric cancer research and provides scholarships to defray
12 the cost of sports and extracurricular activities for families
13 with kids going through cancer treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, The Hinsdale Little League has honored Brooks Tonn
15 with the creation of the Brooks Tonn Award for the player on
16 each team that demonstrates a commitment to teamwork, effort,
17 and kindness; and

18 WHEREAS, Like a shooting star, Brooks Tonn's brilliant,
19 shining glow, his smile, and his energy, lit up the lives of
20 everyone who had the privilege of knowing him, but are gone too
21 soon; just because he is no longer here, it does not mean he

1 will be forgotten; his presence resonates through all who knew
2 him and through the Brooks Strong Foundation; and

3 WHEREAS, Since the day of Brooks Tonn's passing, blue and
4 yellow cups have adorned the 47th Street Bridge over Interstate
5 294 with his rallying cry "Brooks Strong"; and

6 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we provide a lasting honor to
7 the memory of Brooks Tonn; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
9 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the 47th Street
11 Bridge over Interstate 294 as the "Brooks Edwin Tonn Memorial
12 Bridge"; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Toll Highway Authority is
14 requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with State
15 and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs giving
16 notice of the name of the "Brooks Edwin Tonn Memorial Bridge";
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Brooks Tonn, the Illinois Toll
20 Highway Authority, and the Brooks Strong Foundation.