



HJ0052

LRB098 14129 GRL 48710 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for us to remember the many  
3 sacrifices and contributions to the cause of freedom made by  
4 the outstanding men and women who served in the United States  
5 Armed Forces and gave the ultimate sacrifice defending  
6 America's freedom; and

7 WHEREAS, Corporal Aaron J. Ripperda was one of seven  
8 members of the 2nd Marine Division whose lives were lost on  
9 March 18, 2013, in an explosion during training at the  
10 Hawthorne Army Depot in western Nevada; he was the most senior  
11 of those lost on that day, both in age and rank; and

12 WHEREAS, Corporal Aaron J. Ripperda was born January 6,  
13 1987 in Breese and graduated from Highland High School in 2005;  
14 during high school, he played football and was involved in the  
15 school's annual madrigal dinner; and

16 WHEREAS, After high school, Corporal Aaron J. Ripperda  
17 attended St. Xavier University in Chicago for a year and then  
18 enrolled in and graduated from the L'Ecole Culinaire School in  
19 St. Louis, Missouri; and

20 WHEREAS, Being an avid traveler, Corporal Aaron J. Ripperda  
21 felt a calling to explore the world by becoming a Marine in

1 2008; while at Camp Lejeune, he developed a passion for  
2 sailing, bought a two-person sailboat, and often took friends  
3 out on a bay near the base; and

4 WHEREAS, While enlisted in the Marine Corps, Corporal Aaron  
5 J. Ripperda traveled to several countries, including Haiti to  
6 help with recovery efforts after the 2010 earthquake, and  
7 Afghanistan; in April of 2011, he was promoted to the rank of  
8 corporal; among his numerous honors were a Navy Unit  
9 Commendation and a Humanitarian Service Medal; and

10 WHEREAS, Corporal Aaron J. Ripperda is survived by his  
11 father, Kent (Colleen) Ripperda; his mother, Tina (Jeff)  
12 Sutton; his sister, Kendall (significant other, Charlie Swaim)  
13 Ripperda; his paternal grandmother, Rita Ripperda; his  
14 maternal grandfather, Ronald (Jackie) Lesicko; his special  
15 friend, Jessica Iskrzycki; his aunts and uncles, Kurt (Lynn)  
16 Ripperda, Cara (significant other, John Zerkle) Tomasek,  
17 William (Beverly) Lesicko, Patrick (Julie) Lesicko; and his  
18 many cousins; and

19 WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General  
20 Assembly pays honor and respect to the truly great individuals  
21 who have served our country and, in doing so, have gone above  
22 and beyond the call of duty to take part in truly heroic tasks;  
23 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
3           SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of  
4           Illinois Route 143 within the city limits of Highland as the  
5           Cpl. Aaron J. Ripperda Memorial Highway; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
7           is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
8           State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
9           giving notice of the name of the Cpl. Aaron J. Ripperda  
10          Memorial Highway; and be it further

11          RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
12          presented to the family of Corporal Aaron J. Ripperda and the  
13          Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.