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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 the truly great individuals
4 who have served our country and, in doing so, have worked hard
5 to improve and enhance the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Congressman Rodney Lee Davis was born in Des
7 Moines, Iowa on January 5, 1970; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis and his family moved to
9 Taylorville when he was a child; and

10 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis graduated from Taylorville High
11 School in 1988 and received his Bachelor of Arts in Political
12 Science from Millikin University in 1992; and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis worked as the projects director
14 in Congressman John Shimkus' district office for 16 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis was elected to the United
16 States House of Representative in 2012 to represent the 13th
17 District in Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, During his time in Congress, Congressman Davis
19 established himself as an effective lawmaker who could govern

1 and work with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass
2 legislation, even in a divided government; and

3 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis advocated for the priorities of
4 the 13th District and Illinois in Washington; he served on
5 both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the
6 Committee on Agriculture, which allowed him to be a leader on
7 issues essential to commerce in Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis worked to promote America's
9 national security and support the men and women of America's
10 armed forces through the National Defense Authorization Act
11 (NDAA); he also worked to promote Scott Air Force Base, which
12 is a vital part of the Metro East community and economy; and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis successfully included language
14 in the U.S. House version of the 2023 NDAA to protect the C-40C
15 aircraft and the 932nd Airlift Wing flying mission at Scott
16 AFB; and

17 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis successfully passed his
18 Counting All Military Votes Act, which ensures that all
19 active-duty and deployed military personnel who wish to vote
20 will have their ballots mailed to their clerks in a timely
21 manner; and

1 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis also successfully passed the
2 Fallen Heroes Family Travel Act, which reimburses travel costs
3 for families of service members who are traveling to obtain
4 the remains of their loved ones who lost their lives in the
5 line of duty; and

6 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis wrote and passed the Hire More
7 Heroes Act, which helps small businesses hire veterans by
8 amending the Affordable Care Act; it overwhelmingly passed the
9 U.S. House with more than 400 supporting votes and was signed
10 into law in July 2015; this, along with his bill, the EACH Act,
11 are some of the few pieces of legislation signed into law to
12 amend the Affordable Care Act; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2018, Congressman Davis successfully passed
14 legislation reforming the Federal Emergency Management
15 Agency's (FEMA) disaster declaration process to help level the
16 playing field for rural communities in Illinois and across the
17 country that are seeking federal aid for disasters; his
18 legislation, which was signed into law in October 2018,
19 requires FEMA to place greater consideration on the localized
20 impact of a natural disaster; and

21 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis is married to Shannon R. Davis
22 and has three children, Toryn, Clark, and Griffin; and

1 WHEREAS, The expansion of Illinois Route 29 between
2 Taylorville and Rochester took over two decades of planning
3 and construction; and

4 WHEREAS, On December 23, 1992, Congressman Davis witnessed
5 the crash that took the life of Melody Traughber when her car
6 hit a slick spot on the two-lane road and slid into oncoming
7 traffic; and

8 WHEREAS, Melody Traughber was one of seven people killed
9 on Illinois 29 between Springfield and Taylorville from 1988
10 to 1995, and her death helped spur the creation of Project 29,
11 a grassroots citizens group that lobbied for the widening of
12 the road to four lanes; and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Davis was instrumental in the
14 planning and public engagement that lead to the widening of
15 Route 29; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
18 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Route 29 from
19 Cardinal Hill Road in Rochester to East 1600 North Road in
20 Taylorville as the "Congressman Rodney Davis Superhighway";
21 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
2 is requested to erect, at suitable locations consistent with
3 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
4 giving notice of the name of the "Congressman Rodney Davis
5 Superhighway"; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
7 presented to Congressman Davis, the Mayor of Taylorville, the
8 Village President of Rochester, and the Secretary of
9 Transportation.