



HR0059

LRB104 08212 MST 18262 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The profound impacts of military toxic exposures  
3 on generations of veterans and military families have created  
4 the persistent and urgent need for enhanced public awareness  
5 and preventative health measures; and

6 WHEREAS, The history of military toxic exposures dates  
7 back more than a century, particularly with the use of  
8 chemical warfare in World War I; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite reductions in certain chemical agents  
10 during World War II, members of the Armed Forces continued to  
11 face significant toxic exposures, including hazardous  
12 substances from naval vessels and herbicides during the Korean  
13 War and Agent Orange and other tactical herbicides during the  
14 Vietnam War; and

15 WHEREAS, The impact of toxic exposure is not limited to  
16 veterans alone but can also affect their families, including  
17 their children with medical conditions potentially related to  
18 their parents' service, such as children born with health  
19 issues following the Vietnam War; and

20 WHEREAS, The legacy of toxic exposure extends to veterans  
21 known as "atomic veterans", who experienced hazardous

1 radiation exposure, further compounding the health risks  
2 associated with service in the Armed Forces; and

3 WHEREAS, Generations of veterans have faced toxic  
4 exposures while serving abroad; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans have encountered other toxic exposures  
6 and environmental hazards during service in the Armed Forces,  
7 including contaminated drinking water, asbestos,  
8 polychlorinated biphenyl, lead, and radiation; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1991, the Vietnam Veterans of America achieved  
10 a significant legislative victory when congress passed the  
11 Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4), leading to the  
12 recognition of Agent Orange as a presumptive hazard and paving  
13 the way for benefits for affected veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, Subsequent conflicts, including the Persian Gulf  
15 War, have seen soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines facing  
16 similar debilitating health issues due to toxic exposures,  
17 reinforcing the need for continued advocacy and research; and

18 WHEREAS, Multiple veterans service organizations,  
19 including Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the  
20 American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed  
21 Veterans of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and

1 others, have worked tirelessly to secure legislative  
2 improvements, including studies on the effects of toxic  
3 exposure and the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath  
4 Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics  
5 Act of 2022 (Public Law 117- 168), also known as the PACT Act;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The PACT Act expanded eligibility for benefits  
8 and health care to veterans of all eras who were exposed to  
9 toxic substances; and

10 WHEREAS, The PACT Act established a new, responsive  
11 framework so that the Department of Veterans Affairs could  
12 more rapidly and transparently make decisions on the  
13 presumption of connection to service in the Armed Forces for  
14 illnesses and other conditions associated with toxic exposure;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Burn pits, hazardous particulate matter, Agent  
17 Orange, oil well fires, fuel leaks, and other toxic events  
18 present in various conflicts have emerged as significant  
19 health concerns, necessitating research into their long-term  
20 effects on veterans and their families; and

21 WHEREAS, The lessons from toxic exposures guide the work  
22 and research of the Department of Defense, the Department of

1 Veterans Affairs, and Congress; and

2 WHEREAS, The effects of toxic exposure are not only  
3 confined to members of the Armed Forces and their family  
4 members but also can impact civilian workers and residents of  
5 military installations exposed to hazardous materials; and

6 WHEREAS, Continued vigilance is necessary to prevent  
7 future incidents of toxic exposure; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
9 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we declare October 2025 as Military Toxic Exposures Awareness  
11 Month in the State of Illinois; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we recognize the profound impact toxic  
13 exposures have had on veterans, members of the Armed Forces,  
14 their families, and their survivors; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we honor the sacrifices of individuals  
16 impacted by toxic exposure in the Armed Forces.