



HR0855

LRB104 21714 RMO 37326 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Thomas "Buzzy" Eichler, born on May 10, 1940, was
3 one of eight children and was raised on the Northwest Side of
4 Chicago; and

5 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school in 1958, Thomas
6 Eichler enlisted (1958-1962) and then re-enlisted (1966-1968)
7 in the United States Marine Corps and was posted to active
8 service in Vietnam; and

9 WHEREAS, In early 1968, Thomas Eichler's company was
10 assigned to the defense perimeter at Khe Sanh, the threatened
11 strongpoint on the "corner" of South Vietnam adjacent to the
12 Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and adjacent to the Ho Chi Minh Trail
13 in Laos; and

14 WHEREAS, Thomas Eichler was placed into the Battle of Khe
15 Sanh with this assignment; and

16 WHEREAS, While engaged in this battle and defending Hill
17 861A on this perimeter on February 5, 1968, Thomas Eichler's
18 company was attacked by what is believed to have been an entire
19 battalion of North Vietnamese (NVA) combat troops; and

20 WHEREAS, In hand-to-hand fighting, Thomas Eichler took the

1 lead role in his company's outnumbered defense of this section
2 of his perimeter against this assault; as part of his combat
3 service recognition, he was awarded the Silver Star for
4 gallantry in action, the third-highest military decoration
5 awarded by the U.S. Marine Corps; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to the Silver Star for his Vietnam
7 War service, Thomas Eichler was awarded the Bronze Star, and
8 he was also awarded the Combat Action Award, Rifle Action
9 Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Meritorious Citation,
10 Gallantry Cross Medal, Purple Heart with bronze oak leaf
11 cluster, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with
12 two bronze stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Presidential
13 Unit Citation; and

14 WHEREAS, Returning home at the end of his service in the
15 United States Marine Corps, Thomas Eichler joined the Chicago
16 Police Department, rising to the rank of sergeant and earning
17 many decorations and acts of service recognition; and

18 WHEREAS, Thomas Eichler concluded his Chicago Police
19 service in the 10th CPD District, with its many challenges to
20 law enforcement; and

21 WHEREAS, As a peace officer and as a retired police
22 officer, Thomas Eichler was a proud member of the American

1 Legion, maintaining his national service at Post #974,
2 Franklin Park, Illinois; and

3 WHEREAS, Thomas Eichler's service as an officer of the
4 Chicago Police was strongly supported by his beloved wife,
5 Beverly Sokoloski Eichler; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas Eichler died on October 7, 2024, age 84,
7 with many brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews to mourn his
8 passing; and

9 WHEREAS, In continued recognition of his service and
10 sacrifices, Thomas Eichler is scheduled to receive honorary
11 street recognition by the City of Chicago, with
12 white-lettering-on-brown signs of honor to be posted on the
13 3200 block of North Opal Avenue, Chicago; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we join with the City of Chicago in honoring the life of
17 service of Thomas "Buzzy" Eichler, U.S. Marine and sergeant in
18 the Chicago Police; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
20 Thomas Eichler's wife, Beverly Sokoloski Eichler.