



SJ0017

LRB104 05708 LAW 15738 r

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois General Assembly pays honor and respect to the truly great individuals who have served their country; and

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WHEREAS, Kenny Kays joined the U.S. Army in 1969 to serve as a medic; as of May 7, 1970, he was serving as a private in the Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division; and

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WHEREAS, During a firefight on that day in Thua Thien-Hue Province, Republic of Vietnam, Pfc. Kays repeatedly allowed himself to be the target of enemy fire in order to treat wounded soldiers; even after losing his lower left leg to an explosion, he treated the wounds of his fellow soldiers before allowing his injuries to be addressed; these actions resulted in the saving of numerous lives and inspired others in his company to repel the enemy; and

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WHEREAS, In November of 1973, Pfc. Kays was promoted to private first class and awarded the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty; and

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WHEREAS, Pfc. Kays' heroism at the risk of his life are in

1 keeping with the highest traditions of the service and reflect
2 great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army; therefore, be
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4 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Illinois
7 Route 15 from the western edge of Fairfield west to the
8 intersection with County Highway 10 as the "Pfc. Kenny Kays
9 Memorial Highway"; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
11 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
12 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
13 giving notice of the name "Pfc. Kenny Kays Memorial Highway";
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Pfc. Kays, the Mayor of Fairfield,
17 and the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
18 Transportation.