



HJ0084

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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 made the  
5 ultimate sacrifice for our nation; and

6 WHEREAS, United States Army Ranger Sergeant Joshua P.  
7 Rodgers of Bloomington was killed in action at the age of 22 on  
8 April 27, 2017 in Nangarhar Province during a joint operation  
9 with Afghan forces; and

10 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers was assigned to Company C, 3rd  
11 Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, and stationed at Fort Benning,  
12 Georgia; he was on his third deployment to Afghanistan; and

13 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers was born in Bloomington to Kevin and  
14 Vonda Coulter Rodgers on August 22, 1994; he attended  
15 Northpoint Elementary School, Kingsley Junior High School, and  
16 Normal Community High School; and

17 WHEREAS, After graduating from high school in May of 2013,  
18 Sgt. Rodgers enlisted in the United States Army in order to  
19 serve his country; he completed One Station Unit Training at  
20 Fort Benning as an infantryman and following completion of the  
21 Basic Airborne Course, he was assigned to the Ranger Assessment

1 and Selection Program 1 (RASP 1), also at Fort Benning; he  
2 graduated from RASP 1 and was then assigned to 2nd Platoon, C  
3 Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served  
4 as a machine gunner, light machine gunner, gun team leader, and  
5 ranger fire team leader; and

6 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers was deployed three times to  
7 Afghanistan; he earned the coveted Ranger Tab, the Parachutist  
8 Badge, and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge Expert-Rifle;  
9 he was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good  
10 Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the  
11 Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, the Global  
12 War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer  
13 Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, and  
14 the NATO Medal; posthumously, he was awarded the Purple Heart  
15 and the Bronze Star Medal with Valor; and

16 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers loved his country, his family and  
17 friends, the military, and especially his fellow Rangers and  
18 regiment; he knew his purpose in life and was living out his  
19 dream; and

20 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers was an amazing friend with a big  
21 heart; through hard work and determination he continually led  
22 by example and made everyone around him proud; his generosity  
23 was unwavering and if you needed anything from him he was

1 always there; and

2 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers was preceded in death by his  
3 grandfather, Mike Rodgers; and

4 WHEREAS, Sgt. Rodgers is survived by his parents, Kevin and  
5 Vonda Rodgers; his sisters, Emily Rodgers and Hannah Rodgers  
6 (Nathan Lloilo); his brother, Ashton Rodgers; his niece,  
7 Victoria Rodgers; his grandparents, Russ and Diana Coulter and  
8 Christine Rodgers; and his aunts, uncles, and cousins, Duane,  
9 Trish, Makayla, and Delanie Fisher, Joe and Carrie, Tyler,  
10 Cecil, and Charlie Rodgers, and Dan, Marcie, and Charlotte  
11 Rodgers; and

12 WHEREAS, Every person who honorably serves in the military  
13 knows and accepts great personal risk, and chooses to serve  
14 anyway; Sgt. Rodgers was, and forever will be, a warrior:  
15 tenacious, humble, determined, and supportive; he was a true  
16 inspiration to everyone who knew him; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
18 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE SENATE  
19 CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate Veterans Parkway in the  
20 Cities of Bloomington and Normal from the intersection of  
21 Interstate 74 to intersection of Interstate 55 as the "Army  
22 Ranger Sergeant Joshua P. Rodgers Memorial Highway"; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
3 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
4 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
5 giving notice of the name "Army Ranger Sergeant Joshua P.  
6 Rodgers Memorial Highway"; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Sgt. Rodgers, the Mayor of  
9 Bloomington, the Mayor of Normal, and the Secretary of  
10 Transportation.