



HJ0004

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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 veterans who have served  
4 their country and the State of Illinois; and

5 WHEREAS, Private Snell was a member of the 136th Infantry,  
6 33rd division of the United States Army; he entered into  
7 service on April 22, 1942 and was stationed at various camps in  
8 the United States until he went overseas on July 5, 1943; he  
9 served in the New Guinea and Philippine campaigns and returned  
10 to the United States on November 4, 1945; he was honorably  
11 discharged at Camp Grant on November 24, 1945; and

12 WHEREAS, On May 6, 1945, the 136th Infantry was met by  
13 heavy mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire from the flanks and  
14 from caves on the reverse slope; as it reached the crest of the  
15 hill, a machine gun on the right flank opened fire and wounded  
16 four men; Private Snell moved forward alone and destroyed the  
17 weapon and its crew; he then directed his fellow soldiers in  
18 destroying three Japanese strong points; although wounded  
19 himself, he led his fellow soldiers forward, secured the enemy  
20 positions, captured the hill, and only then allowed himself to  
21 be evacuated; and

22 WHEREAS, On June 9, 1946, Private Snell was awarded the

1 Distinguished Service Cross, the army's second highest award  
2 for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty;  
3 along with the cross, he received the Good Conduct Medal, the  
4 American Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two  
5 Bronze Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one  
6 Bronze Battle Star, and the Purple Heart; and

7 WHEREAS, Private Snell displayed inspiring leadership,  
8 indomitable fighting spirit, and heroic effort despite his  
9 wounds; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
12 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the Utica River  
13 Bridge as the "Ralph E. Snell Memorial Bridge"; and be it  
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
16 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
17 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
18 giving notice of the name of the "Ralph E. Snell Memorial  
19 Bridge"; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
21 presented to the family of Private Ralph E. Snell and the  
22 Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation.