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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is appropriate to remember the many sacrifices and contributions to the cause of freedom made by the outstanding men and women who served in the U.S. Armed Forces; and

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WHEREAS, First Lieutenant James F. Claussen was born to Ernest and Stella Claussen on Christmas Day in 1921; at the time, the family lived on a small farm near Jacob; and

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WHEREAS, 1LT Claussen voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Army in June of 1940 with the goal of becoming a paratrooper; he did not meet the Army's size requirements to become a paratrooper and redirected his efforts to becoming a pilot; and

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WHEREAS, From June of 1943 until his death in March of 1945, 1LT Claussen flew seven combat missions over Sicily, France, Holland, and Germany; and

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WHEREAS, On March 24, 1945, 1LT Claussen was killed in action while taking part in Operation Varsity; while his three year commitment when enlisting had ended, he volunteered to fly the day he was killed in action; his C-46 Commando was last seen with its left engine on fire heading back across the Rhine

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1 River after successfully dropping all of its paratroopers; and

2 WHEREAS, 1LT Claussen was the recipient of the Air Medal,
3 the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct
4 Medal; he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the
9 portion of Illinois Route 3 between mile marker 20 and mile
10 marker 22, near Rockwood, as the "1LT James F. Claussen
11 Memorial Highway"; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
13 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
14 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
15 giving notice of the name of "1LT James F. Claussen Memorial
16 Highway"; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to the Secretary of Transportation and the family of
19 1LT Claussen.