



HJ0012

LRB103 30167 MST 56594 r

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 First Class Ralph E. Snell was a member
6 of the 136th Infantry, 33rd Division of the U.S. Army; he
7 entered into service on April 22, 1942, and he was stationed at
8 various camps in the United States until he went overseas on
9 July 5, 1943; he served in the New Guinea and Philippine
10 campaigns and returned to the United States on November 4,
11 1945; he was honorably discharged at Camp Grant on November
12 24, 1945; and

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

1 WHEREAS, On June 9, 1946, PFC Snell was awarded the
2 Distinguished Service Cross, the army's second highest award
3 for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty;
4 along with the cross, he received the Good Conduct Medal, the
5 American Campaign Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two
6 Bronze Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one
7 Bronze Battle Star, and the Purple Heart; and

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
22 presented to the family of PFC Snell and the Secretary of the

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1 Illinois Department of Transportation.