



HR0904

LRB103 42716 MST 75953 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives pays honor and respect to those who have  
4 served our country and State and, in doing so, have made the  
5 ultimate sacrifice; and

6           WHEREAS, The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)  
7 announced that U.S. Army Private First Class Harry Jerele of  
8 Berkeley, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during  
9 World War II, was accounted for on December 20, 2023; and

10           WHEREAS, PFC Jerele was born to Leopold Jerele and Mary  
11 Flori-Jerele in Clinton, Iowa on February 1, 1916; he and his  
12 family eventually resettled in Berkeley, Illinois; and

13           WHEREAS, PFC Jerele was a member of the 33rd Tank Company  
14 of the Illinois National Guard in Maywood; after his unit was  
15 called to federal service on September 1, 1940, he became a  
16 member of the 192nd Tank Battalion, Company B in the U.S. Army,  
17 which included 104 soldiers from Illinois, and was deployed to  
18 the Philippines; and

19           WHEREAS, In the summer of 1941, PFC Jerele and the 192nd  
20 Tank Battalion were serving in the Philippines when Japanese  
21 forces invaded the country in December 1941; intense fighting

1 continued until the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula on April  
2 9, 1942 and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942, leading to  
3 thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members being captured  
4 and interned at POW camps; and

5 WHEREAS, PFC Jerele was among those reported captured when  
6 U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese; he and  
7 fellow POWs were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March  
8 and then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where more than 2,500  
9 POWs perished during the war; and

10 WHEREAS, According to prison camp and other historical  
11 records, PFC Jerele died on December 28, 1942, and he was  
12 buried along with other deceased prisoners in Common Grave 804  
13 of the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery; and

14 WHEREAS, Following the war, American Graves Registration  
15 Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the  
16 Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery and relocated the remains to a  
17 temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila; the AGRS  
18 examined the remains in an attempt to identify them in 1947;  
19 while two sets of remains from Common Grave 804 were  
20 identified, the remaining two were declared unidentifiable,  
21 which included those of PFC Jerele; the unidentified remains  
22 were buried as Unknowns at the Manila American Cemetery and  
23 Memorial (MACM); and

1           WHEREAS, In early 2020, the remains associated with Common  
2           Grave 804 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for  
3           analysis; to identify PFC Jerele's remains, scientists from  
4           DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial  
5           evidence; additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces  
6           Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)  
7           analysis; and

8           WHEREAS, Although interred as an Unknown in MACM, PFC  
9           Jerele's grave was meticulously cared for by the American  
10          Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) for the past 70 years; and

11          WHEREAS, PFC Jerele will be buried with full military  
12          honors at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on  
13          October 4, 2024; therefore, be it

14          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15          HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16          we recognize U.S. Army Private First Class Harry Jerele for  
17          making the ultimate sacrifice in service to his State and  
18          country during World War II; and be it further

19          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20          presented to the family of PFC Jerele as an expression of our  
21          deepest sympathy.