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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On June 12, 2010, Governor Pat Quinn signed the Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act into law; the Act allows counties in Illinois to create a Veterans and Servicemembers Court Program or Veterans' Treatment Courts for military veterans charged with non-violent crimes; and

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WHEREAS, Currently, Cook, DuPage, Lake, Madison, Peoria, Will, Winnebago, and several other counties have Veterans' Treatment Courts to assist veterans with substance abuse and other related problems; and

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WHEREAS, Many returning veterans suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injuries, substance abuse, and other service-related disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, Veterans' Treatment Courts are used as an alternative venue to the regular criminal justice system for non-violent criminal offenses; the courts connect veterans with specialized treatment and counseling programs to assist them with transitioning to life after their military service; and

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WHEREAS, Veterans' Treatment Courts require regular court appearances in addition to mandatory attendance at treatment

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1 sessions for substance abuse as well as random testing for
2 substance use; and

3 WHEREAS, Upon successful completion of the program, the
4 charges against the veteran may be dismissed; and

5 WHEREAS, Veterans' Treatment Courts are in a unique
6 position to link veterans with additional services and
7 resources available to them; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
10 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we encourage the creation of
11 Veterans and Servicemembers Treatment Courts in all counties in
12 the State of Illinois; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That we urge counties that currently have
14 successful programs to work with other counties to help create
15 successful programs and provide assistance in implementation
16 to better serve our veterans in every county; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to the County Board Chair or President of all 102
19 Illinois counties.