



February 16, 2018

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**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 26**

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DIGEST OF RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to rename US 421 in Jefferson County from the junction of US 421 and SR 62 to the northern border of Jefferson County, Indiana as the "Maj. Samuel Woodfill Memorial Highway" in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Indiana's only World War I Medal of Honor recipient and Jefferson County native.

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**Smith J**

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January 23, 2018, read first time and referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation.  
February 15, 2018, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.

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SC 26—RC 1526/DI SM





February 16, 2018

Second Regular Session 120th General Assembly (2018)

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RESOLUTION No. 26**

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2 Department of Transportation to rename US 421 in Jefferson  
3 County from the junction of US 421 and SR 62 to the northern  
4 border of Jefferson County, Indiana as the "Maj. Samuel  
5 Woodfill Memorial Highway" in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
6 of Indiana's only World War I Medal of Honor recipient and  
7 Jefferson County native.

8           *Whereas, Major Samuel Woodfill, a native of Jefferson*  
9 *County, was the only Hoosier to be awarded the Medal of*  
10 *Honor during World War I;*

11           *Whereas, Major Woodfill was born on January 6, 1883 in*  
12 *Bryantsburg, the son of Christina Woodfill and John S.G.*  
13 *Woodfill, a veteran of the Mexican-American War and the Civil*  
14 *War;*

15           *Whereas, Major Woodfill attended school at Belleview,*  
16 *became an excellent marksman at a young age by hunting in*  
17 *areas near his family's farm, and enlisted in the United States*  
18 *Army 11<sup>th</sup> Infantry on March 8, 1901 at the age of eighteen to*  
19 *continue his father's military legacy;*

20           *Whereas, Major Woodfill served his country for more than*  
21 *forty years as a veteran of the Philippine-American War, World*  
22 *War I, and World War II;*

23           *Whereas, On October 12, 1918, the First Lieutenant*  
24 *Woodfill and his regiment encountered heavy machine gun fire*  
25 *from the Germans at Cunel, France where Major Woodfill went*

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1     *ahead of his first line towards machine gun nests three times,*  
2     *killing or capturing the German soldiers each time;*

3             *Whereas, As a result of his great bravery, Major Woodfill*  
4     *suffered from the effects of exposure to mustard gas as well as*  
5     *a piece of shrapnel that struck his thigh during the last*  
6     *encounter;*

7             *Whereas, Major Woodfill was the most decorated American*  
8     *servicemember during World War I, receiving the Medal of*  
9     *Honor, French Croix de Guerre with palm, the Cross of Prince*  
10    *Danilo, Italy's Meriot di Guerra, and was made a Chevalier of*  
11    *the French Legion of Honor;*

12            *Whereas, Major Woodfill was lauded as the "greatest*  
13    *American Soldier of the World War" by General John*  
14    *Pershing, Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces,*  
15    *during World War I;*

16            *Whereas, As further recognition of his renown, Major*  
17    *Woodfill was asked to serve as a pallbearer at the burial of the*  
18    *Unknown Soldier during the 1921 dedication ceremonies at*  
19    *Arlington National Cemetery and as pallbearer for General*  
20    *Pershing in 1948;*

21            *Whereas, Major Woodfill was buried at a small church*  
22    *cemetery in Hebron in Jefferson County in 1951 until moved to*  
23    *Arlington National Cemetery in 1955 and buried approximately*  
24    *fifty feet from General Pershing;*

25            *Whereas, Many states, including Indiana, have designated*  
26    *and named parts of the state and federal highways as*  
27    *memorials to those who served their nation in time of war;*

28            *Whereas, The people of Jefferson County wish to recognize*  
29    *the designation of US 421 in Jefferson County from the junction*  
30    *of US 421 and SR 62, to the northern border of Jefferson*  
31    *County, Indiana in honor of Samuel Woodfill; and*

32            *Whereas, It is fitting that proper signage be placed along*



1 *US 421 to recognize the designation of that part of the highway*  
2 *as the "Maj. Samuel Woodfill Memorial Highway" in honor of*  
3 *Major Woodfill's service and sacrifice: Therefore,*

4 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*  
5 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

6 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the  
7 Indiana Department of Transportation to rename US 421 in  
8 Jefferson County from the junction of US 421 and SR 62 to the  
9 northern border of Jefferson County, Indiana as the "Maj.  
10 Samuel Woodfill Memorial Highway" in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup>  
11 anniversary of Indiana's only World War I Medal of Honor  
12 recipient, Samuel Woodfill.

13 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed  
14 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Robert Woodfill, Maj.  
15 Samuel Woodfill's closest living relative, the Commissioner of  
16 the Indiana Department of Transportation, and the Jefferson  
17 County Veterans Council.



COMMITTEE REPORT

Madam President: The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation, to which was referred Senate Concurrent Resolution 26, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 3, line 15, after "relative," insert "the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation,".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SCR 26 as introduced.)

CRIDER, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0.

