



SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT

MAY 08 2008

IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

2008-2

**EXECUTIVE ORDER ESTABLISHING INTERSTATE 57 BETWEEN
MILE POST 0 AND MILE POST 106 AS THE KEN GRAY EXPRESSWAY**

WHEREAS, Congressman Ken Gray was a native son of Illinois, born in West Frankfort, Illinois on November 14, 1924 as the youngest of three sons to Thomas Wilson Gray and Anna (Reed) Gray; and

WHEREAS, the Gray family moved to the Shawnee Forest in Pope County and Ken Gray attended the Wooten School; and

WHEREAS, the Gray family returned to Franklin County and Ken Gray graduated from Frankfort Community High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Ken Gray joined the United States Army Air Corps at the age of 17, became a helicopter pilot known as the "Flying Sergeant," and served as a crew chief with the Twelfth Air Force in North Africa and participated in combat missions over southern France and central Europe before his discharge in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Ken Gray was awarded three Bronze Stars, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and Marksman Badge with carbine bar; and

WHEREAS, Ken Gray returned to West Frankfort and served as Commander of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Ken Gray was first elected to the United States Congress in 1954 and served ten consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, Ken Gray served two additional terms in the United States Congress beginning in 1985; and

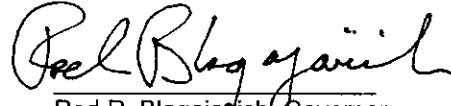
WHEREAS, Ken Gray was instrumental in bringing the interstate highway system to Southern Illinois and was a relentless advocate for economic development for the communities in Southern Illinois; and

WHEREAS, Ken Gray has founded the "U.S. Congressman Ken Gray Presidential Museum," a museum in his hometown of West Frankfort displaying a collection of presidential memorabilia, a history of coal mining in Southern Illinois, and other artifacts from his many years of public service; and

WHEREAS, as Governor of Illinois, I wish to permanently commemorate the distinguished career of Congressman Ken Gray and his personal connection to Interstate 57 and the State of Illinois.

THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:

- I. The portion of Interstate 57 commencing at the Illinois State Line at Mile Post 0 and ending at the Marion-Jefferson County Line at Mile Post 106 shall be designated the Ken Gray Expressway.
- II. The Illinois Department of Transportation shall erect appropriate plaques or signs giving notice of the Ken Gray Expressway.
- III. This Executive Order shall be in full force and effect upon its filing with the Secretary of State.


Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Issued by Governor: May 8, 2008
Filed with Secretary of State: May 8, 2008