



HR0771

LRB100 16648 MST 31785 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of James E.  
4 Keefe, who passed away on November 21, 2017; and

5           WHEREAS, James Keefe was born in Chicago to James H. and  
6 Florence M. (Cooney) Keefe on January 13, 1932; he moved to  
7 Woodstock in 1938 and attended St. Mary's School through the  
8 9th grade; he then attended St. Mary's Seminary School, where  
9 he had planned to become a priest; and

10           WHEREAS, James Keefe attended college at St. Ambrose  
11 University in Davenport, Iowa until he was drafted during his  
12 sophomore year; he served his country with distinction in the  
13 U.S. Army as a military policeman during the Korean War; he  
14 returned to college after being discharged and graduated from  
15 St. Ambrose in 1957; and

16           WHEREAS, Two weeks after graduating from college, James  
17 Keefe married the love of his life, Mary Ellen Burmeister, at  
18 St. Mary Catholic Church in Woodstock; together they were  
19 parents to Kelly, Erin, Patrick, and Quinn and grandparents to  
20 several grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

21           WHEREAS, James Keefe worked as an insurance agent for more

1 than 43 years, with 38 years as an agent for Country Companies;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, During his entire adult life, James Keefe was an  
4 active member of St. Mary Parish and served as a Knight of the  
5 Roman Catholic Order of the Holy Sepulchre; and

6 WHEREAS, James Keefe was a charter member of the Woodstock  
7 Rotary Club and served as the club's vice president when the  
8 club was founded in 1968; he later served as president and in  
9 many other roles; he and his wife hosted numerous Rotary  
10 Exchange students from all parts of the world throughout the  
11 years; and

12 WHEREAS, As a Rotarian, James Keefe recorded over 49 years  
13 of perfect attendance at Rotary meetings, even seeking out  
14 meetings when traveling out of town; he was named a "Paul  
15 Harris" fellow through Rotary; and

16 WHEREAS, James Keefe was a longtime member of the McHenry  
17 County Civil War Roundtable, where he served as treasurer; he  
18 was a past member of the Woodstock Jaycees, the Lions Club, and  
19 the Elks Club; and

20 WHEREAS, James Keefe was elected to the Woodstock City  
21 Council in 1969 and served two full terms; he also served on

1 the Police and Fire Commission, the Woodstock Library Board,  
2 and the Memorial Hospital Board; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2002, James Keefe received the Woodstock  
4 Chamber of Commerce Buschkopf Award for Community Service; and

5 WHEREAS, James Keefe had a deep love of history and became  
6 known for his "History of Woodstock" slide presentations which  
7 he gave to many groups over the years; and

8 WHEREAS, James Keefe was a talented photographer and loved  
9 to travel and document his trips through pictures; he traveled  
10 the world with his wife Mary Ellen before her death, never  
11 missing Mass or Rotary Meetings wherever their travels took  
12 them; and

13 WHEREAS, James Keefe is survived by his children, Kelly  
14 (Mark) Afeld, Erin (Steve Walters) Anderegg, Patrick  
15 (Katherine) Keefe, and Quinn Keefe; his grandchildren, Kendra,  
16 Trevor, Greta, Lauren, Bridget, Hanna, Joseph, Hailey, and  
17 Katelyn; and his great-grandchild, Ella; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
20 mourn the passing of James Keefe, and extend our sincere  
21 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved

1 him; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of James Keefe as an expression of our  
4 deepest sympathy.