



HR1247

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Leon Max
4 Lederman, who passed away on October 3, 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Leon Lederman was born in New York City on July
6 15, 1922; his parents were Jewish immigrants from Russia, who
7 ran a hand laundry business; he showed an interest in science
8 at an early age and was inspired by an older brother who
9 tinkered at home; he graduated from City College of New York in
10 1943, where he majored in chemistry; he then served as an
11 officer in the United States Army for three years; he received
12 his master's degree in physics from Columbia in 1951; and

13 WHEREAS, During graduate school, Leon Lederman joined the
14 Columbia physics department in constructing a 385-MeV
15 synchrotron at Nevis lab at Irvington-on-the Hudson, New York;
16 he remained as part of that collaboration for 28 years and
17 eventually served as director of Nevis Labs from 1961 until
18 1978; though his early award-winning work, he rose to
19 prominence as a researcher and began to influence science
20 policy; in the early 1960s, he proposed the idea for the
21 National Accelerator Laboratory, which eventually became
22 Fermilab; he served as director of Fermilab from 1978 until
23 1989; as the director, he established the ongoing Saturday

1 Morning Physics program; and

2 WHEREAS, Leon Lederman promoted math and science education
3 in many ways; in the early 1980s, he worked with members of the
4 Illinois State Government to start the Illinois Math and
5 Science Academy, which was founded in Aurora in 1985; he
6 founded and was chairman of the Teachers Academy for
7 Mathematics and Science and was active in the professional
8 development of primary school teachers in Chicago; he also
9 helped to found the nonprofit Fermilab Friends for Science
10 Education; and

11 WHEREAS, During his career, Leon Lederman received some of
12 the highest national and international awards and honors given
13 to scientists; these include the 1965 National Medal of
14 Science, the 1972 Elliot Creeson Medal from the Franklin
15 Institute, the Wolf Prize in 1982, and the Nobel Prize in
16 physics in 1988; he received the Enrico Fermi Award for his
17 career contributions to science, technology, and medicine
18 related to nuclear energy and the science and technology of
19 energy in 1992 and was given the Vannevar Bush Award for
20 exceptional lifelong leaders in science and technology in 2012;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Leon Lederman also served as the Pritzker
23 professor of science at the Illinois Institute of Technology

1 and as chairman of the State of Illinois Governor's Science
2 Advisory Committee; he served on the board of the Chicago
3 Museum of Science and Industry and the Secretary of Energy
4 Advisory Board; he will be remembered as someone who made the
5 general public more aware of the importance of science; and

6 WHEREAS, Leon Lederman is survived by his wife of 37 years,
7 Ellen; and his children, Rena, Jesse, and Rachel, with his
8 first wife, Florence Gordon; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 mourn the passing of Leon Max Lederman and extend our sincere
12 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved
13 him; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Leon Lederman as an expression of
16 our deepest sympathy.