



SR1431

LRB100 20924 MST 36473 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Edward Leroy "Hambone" Emerick of Wood River, who passed away on February 7, 2018; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick was born in Wood River to Edward C. and Evelyn M. Emerick in 1925; he graduated from East Alton-Wood River High School in 1944; he was a World War II Navy veteran and served on the USS Orca; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick lived a life full of service and was dedicated to the City of Wood River; he served as Recreation Director for 37 years, was elected to the city council, and served a term as mayor; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick's contributions to the City of Wood River include planning and developing the Wood River Aquatic Center, running the "Jiveland" teen center, and organizing the first Oiler Booster Club; he also implemented the Wood River Khoury League baseball program; he cared deeply about the Parks and Recreation Department and its mission; and

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WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick served as President of the Wood River American Legion Post, President of the Wood River Jaycees, a member of the East Alton-Wood River Hall of Fame,

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1 and a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church in Wood  
2 River; he was an inaugural inductee into the Oiler Alumni Hall  
3 of Fame in 2009; he was also a member of the Illinois Amateur  
4 Softball Association for 65 years and is enshrined in their  
5 Hall of Fame; and

6 WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick was more than just a public figure;  
7 he was a fun-loving person who, as the city's Parks and  
8 Recreation Director, took his responsibility to keep children  
9 entertained seriously; if there is a prevailing memory of him,  
10 though, it is his rendition of "Hambone", which he would  
11 perform on a moment's notice; and

12 WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick was preceded in death by his  
13 parents; his wife, Helen; his brother, Leon "Tootie"; his  
14 sister-in-law, Dorothy; and his nephew, Scot; and

15 WHEREAS, Leroy Emerick is survived by his children, Donna  
16 (Dan) Smith, Dale (Joy), Dana (Micki), and Dean (Sheila)  
17 Emerick; his nephews, Stan (Jo) and Sean (Tish) Emerick; his  
18 grandchildren, Danelle and Drew Emerick, Ryan (Elizabeth)  
19 Emerick, Leah (Keith) Butler, Daniel Emerick, and Nicole (Will)  
20 Balcom; and his three great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Edward Leroy "Hambone" Emerick and extend our sincere  
2 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
3 him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of Leroy Emerick as an expression of  
6 our deepest sympathy.