



HR1382

LRB098 23483 MST 62652 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 our
4 friend and former colleague, former State Representative
5 Michael K. Smith, who passed away on August 9, 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith was born to Dale and Betty Bertetto
7 Smith on May 23, 1966 in Canton; he graduated from Canton High
8 School and from Bradley University with a Bachelor of Arts in
9 Political Science; and

10 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith married Donna L. Shaw on February 1,
11 1991 in Canton; and

12 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith began working with the Illinois House
13 of Representatives as a legislative assistant; he continued his
14 public service as Canton Township Trustee from 1991 to 1994 and
15 as a Citizens Advocate for the Illinois Attorney General's
16 Office from 1992 to 1995; he was elected State Representative
17 in 1994 and diligently served the people of Fulton, Peoria, and
18 Tazewell counties and the State of Illinois for 16 years; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith was a dedicated and passionate advocate
20 for Illinois' schoolchildren as Chairman of the House
21 Elementary and Secondary Education Committee; he fought to

1 increase funding for schools, literacy programs, early
2 childhood education, and students with special needs; he served
3 as a member of the Illinois Education Labor Relations Board
4 from 2011 to 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith fought for middle-class families,
6 working to bring jobs to Central Illinois; he secured valuable
7 State assistance to support local employers and workers at the
8 Keystone Steel and Wire Co. in Bartonville and at Cook Medical
9 in Canton; he helped to promote regional growth through the
10 establishment of the Heart of Illinois Regional Port District,
11 the Western Illinois Economic Development Authority, and with
12 his support of the bio-fuels industry; he made his district a
13 priority by securing millions of dollars in infrastructure
14 improvement projects, including upgrades to Veterans Drive in
15 Pekin and through efforts to revitalize East Peoria's downtown;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith served as a Chairperson and Member of
18 the House committees on Appropriations-Elementary and
19 Secondary Education, Agriculture and Conservation, Environment
20 and Energy, Financial Institutions, Judiciary II-Criminal Law,
21 and Personnel and Pensions; he fought on behalf of first
22 responders as a founder and Co-Chairman of the Illinois
23 Legislative Fire Services Caucus; he served as Chairman and
24 Vice-Chairman of the Downstate Democratic Caucus; and

1 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith loved his community; he served as a
2 Trustee Emeritus at Graham Hospital in Canton, a founding
3 member of the 336 Highway Coalition, and as a member of Pekin
4 Moose Lodge #916, the Knights of Columbus, and Ducks Unlimited;
5 he was a past president of the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce,
6 a past vice-president of the Rotary Club of Canton, former
7 board member of the American Heart Association's Illinois
8 Chapter, and the Fulton-Mason Crisis Service, and a past Parish
9 Council President at St. Mary Church in Canton; and

10 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith's public service was recognized with
11 the Glen Walters Memorial Award, the Associated Fire Fighters
12 of Illinois Legislator of the Year, the Illinois Association of
13 Fire Protection Districts Award, the Friend of Agriculture, the
14 Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association 1999 Legislative
15 Award, the Illinois Association of Rural Electric
16 Co-Operatives Representative of the Year, the Illinois ABATE
17 Outstanding Legislator Award, the Illinois Education
18 Association Legislative Service Award, the Illinois Hospital
19 Association Award, and the Leo Sharp Award; and

20 WHEREAS, Rep. Smith is survived by his wife, Donna; his
21 mother, Betty; his sisters, Sandra Schuman and Pat Fowler; and
22 several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews;
23 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
2 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of
4 former State Representative Michael K. Smith; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Rep. Smith as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathies and respect.