



SR1610

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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 former United States Representative Philip M. "Phil" Crane, who passed away at the home of his daughter, Rebekah, on November 8, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane was born in Chicago on November 3, 1930; his parents were George W. Crane and Cora Ellen Miller; he graduated from Hillside College in 1952 and earned his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1963; he also served in the United States Army from 1954 until 1956; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane taught as an Associate Professor of History at Bradley University; while there, he gained national recognition in politics as a charismatic and popular public speaker on behalf of the Barry Goldwater presidential campaign in 1964; those efforts, combined with the release of his 1964 book, "The Democrat's Dilemma", elevated him as a leading national figure in the fledgling conservative movement and the Republican Party; he also wrote the "The Sum of Good Government" in 1976 and "Surrender in Panama: The Case Against the Treaty" in 1978; and

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WHEREAS, In 1969, then-Congressman Donald Rumsfeld was appointed by President Richard Nixon to serve in his

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1 administration, leaving a vacancy in Congress; Rep. Phil Crane
2 ran for, and won, the vacated seat, taking up the seat in 1969;
3 he continued to represent Illinois in Congress until January
4 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, While serving in Congress, Rep. Phil Crane spent
6 most of his career serving on the Ways and Means Committee,
7 where he championed lower taxes, a simplified tax code, free
8 market economics, and free trade; he was the ranking member and
9 eventually Chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee,
10 where he led the effort to pass numerous free trade agreements,
11 including the North American Free Trade Agreement; he was also
12 very active in efforts to reduce or limit government spending
13 and authored and supported hundreds of bills and amendments to
14 accomplish those ends; and

15 WHEREAS, As a leader of the conservative movement in
16 Congress, Rep. Phil Crane was instrumental in the founding of a
17 number of conservative organizations; in 1973, he founded the
18 Republican Study Committee, the preeminent Republican
19 conservative organization in the United States House of
20 Representatives; that same year, he was a leader in the effort
21 to form the Heritage Foundation, which has grown into one of
22 the most well known and respected conservative think tanks in
23 the country; he also served as head of the American
24 Conservative Union; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1978, Rep. Phil Crane threw his hat in the ring
2 in 1978 for the Republican nomination for President of the
3 United States; as Republicans were commencing the process of
4 choosing Ronald Reagan as the 1980 presidential nominee, he
5 mobilized political support for President Reagan's election;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane was preceded in death by his
8 parents; his wife, Arlene; a brother, George; and a daughter,
9 Rachel; and

10 WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane is survived by his siblings, Judy,
11 Daniel, and David; his children, Catherine, Susanna, Rebekah,
12 Jennifer, Sarah, George, and Carrie; and many grandchildren;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
16 former United States Representative Philip M. "Phil" Crane; and
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of Rep. Phil Crane as an expression of
20 our sympathy.