



HR0294

LRB099 11490 MST 32586 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to congratulate William Eugene Nelson on  
4 the occasion of his 95th birthday; and

5           WHEREAS, William Nelson was born in Rockford on March 25,  
6 1920; he attended Rockford grade schools before relocating to  
7 Chicago and becoming part of the first graduating class at Lane  
8 Tech High School in 1938, where he played first base for the  
9 baseball team; he graduated from the Chicago School of Pharmacy  
10 and married Ramona Davis on November 28, 1942 and had 5  
11 children, Dale, Karen, Connie, Bill, and Eric; in 1943, he  
12 entered the United States Navy and was deployed in the Pacific  
13 Theater; he played baseball for the Rockford Foresters; and

14           WHEREAS, William Nelson worked as a salesman for the Wyeth  
15 pharmaceutical company until 1949; he then bought Trulson Drug  
16 Store in Princeton and opened Nelson Drug at its South Main  
17 Street location on August 1, 1949; his brother, Bob, joined him  
18 in 1960 and worked at Nelson Drug for 12 years until leaving to  
19 open his own store; Williams's son, Billy, also worked at  
20 Nelson Drug for 20 years; and

21           WHEREAS, William Nelson retired on October 27, 2012 after  
22 operating Nelson Drug for 63 years - the longest operating

1 business on Main Street in Princeton; he might possibly rank as  
2 the most senior "full-time, owner/operator pharmacist in North  
3 America"; and

4 WHEREAS, William Nelson served on the Princeton City  
5 Council from 1967 to 1979 and as the Mayor of Princeton from  
6 1980 to 1988; he was the Grand Marshal of the Homestead Parade  
7 in Princeton in 2003 and was awarded the Illinois Pharmacists  
8 Association Lifetime Achievement award in 2009; and

9 WHEREAS, William Nelson is a life-long Chicago Cubs fan and  
10 once met Lou Gerig; he enjoys golfing and has achieved 2  
11 holes-in-one; and

12 WHEREAS, William Nelson married Judith (nee Ruch)  
13 Struthers on March 18, 1995 and gained 2 step-sons, Jason and  
14 James; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 congratulate William Eugene Nelson on his 95th birthday and  
18 wish him many more wonderful years; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to William Nelson as an expression of our esteem and  
21 respect.