



SR1066

LRB099 14496 MST 38611 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 Henry Dale Smith, Sr. of Springfield, who passed away on September 19, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Smith, Sr. was born in Asheville, North Carolina on August 1, 1928 to James Matthew and Ethel Rickbiel Smith; he began his education at The Citadel in June of 1944, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry; he then earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; he married Betty Mood on June 28, 1950 in Columbia, South Carolina; and

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WHEREAS, Henry Smith, Sr. relocated his family to Springfield and founded H. D. Smith Wholesale Drug Co. in January of 1954; he grew the company from 4 associates in the Springfield area to 1,100 nationwide; he served as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors and, most recently, served as its Chairman Emeritus; his company is now the fourth-largest pharmaceutical wholesaler in the nation; he also served as Vice-President of Smith Drug in Spartanburg, South Carolina and subsequently as chairman and CEO of J.M. Smith Corporation upon the death of his brother; he served in that capacity for 13 years and then continued his service as a director of the company, retiring from the board

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1 as its longest serving member; and

2 WHEREAS, Henry Smith, Sr. served as an active member of the  
3 National Wholesale Druggists Association; he received the  
4 Healthcare Distribution Management Association's Nexus Award  
5 for Lifetime Achievement in 2003 for his contributions to the  
6 industry; he was inducted into The Citadel School of Business  
7 Hall of Fame in 2011; and

8 WHEREAS, Henry Smith, Sr. was active in the Springfield  
9 community as a volunteer and philanthropist and an avid  
10 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supporter; the  
11 Betty Mood Smith Rockery rock garden, located in Springfield's  
12 Washington Park, was a gift to his wife, celebrating her love  
13 of gardening; he was a Rotary Club member for more than 40  
14 years; he also served as a deacon, elder, and trustee at  
15 Westminster Presbyterian Church during his 60 years of  
16 membership; he was an avid Fighting Illini sports fan and a fan  
17 of the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Bears; and

18 WHEREAS, Henry Smith, Sr. was preceded in death by his  
19 parents; his sister, Beverly Smith Moss; and his brother, James  
20 Matthew Smith, Jr.; and

21 WHEREAS, Henry Smith, Sr. is survived by his wife, Betty;  
22 his 4 sons, Henry Dale (Deborah Klang) Smith, Jr., Rogers Mood

1 (Mary Summers) Smith, J. Christopher (Debra Nickelson) Smith,  
2 and Andrew (Joyce) Smith; his grandchildren, Virginia (Dan  
3 Upham) Sole-Smith, Chandler (Eric Taxier) Klang Smith,  
4 Elizabeth Smith, Caroline Summers Smith, Lacy Smith,  
5 Callandria Nickelson Smith, Rogers Reed Summers Smith, and  
6 Spencer Nickelson Smith; his great-granddaughter, Violet  
7 Upham-Smith; and several nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
9 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
10 Henry Dale Smith, Sr., and extend our sincere condolences to  
11 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
14 presented to the family of Henry Smith, Sr. as an expression of  
15 our deepest sympathy.