



HR0513

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois Governor James R. "Jim" Edgar, who passed away on
5 September 14, 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was born in Vinita, Oklahoma on July
7 22, 1946; he was raised in Charleston, Illinois; he graduated
8 from Charleston High School and Eastern Illinois University,
9 where he served as student body president; and

10 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar began his career in public service as
11 a legislative intern in the Illinois Senate; he was then
12 elected to the Illinois House of Representatives before
13 serving as Illinois Secretary of State for ten years; he was
14 elected Governor of Illinois in 1990, and he was reelected for
15 a second term four years later, where he carried 101 of
16 Illinois' 102 counties in a historic landslide victory; and

17 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar, as the State's 38th governor,
18 prioritized fiscal responsibility, educational access, child
19 welfare reform, and environmental conservation; he restored
20 the State's financial stability during a national recession,
21 championed increased funding for underserved school districts,
22 and helped make higher education more affordable; alongside

1 his wife, Brenda, he led efforts to modernize the State's
2 adoption system and support families; he was noted for his
3 honesty and thoughtful leadership and for bringing people
4 together across political lines, leading to his administration
5 being one of the most diverse in Illinois history; and

6 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar, after leaving office in 1998, founded
7 the Edgar Fellows Program at the University of Illinois to
8 mentor the next generation of public leaders, instilling in
9 participants his belief that respectful dialogue and shared
10 purpose can transcend political divides and build a better
11 future; his program has had more than 500 Fellows in the
12 program since its inception, and it remains one of his most
13 meaningful accomplishments; and

14 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was a devoted father and a loving
15 grandfather; he was also a man of many interests, an avid
16 reader, a lifelong learner, and an owner and breeder of
17 thoroughbred race horses; he loved his dogs, collected art and
18 history, enjoyed traveling, and treasured friendships that
19 spanned decades; and

20 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was known as a leader who cared not
21 only about results but also about people; he leaves behind a
22 legacy of integrity, bipartisanship, and public service,
23 serving as an example of how to lead, to listen to all sides,

1 and to care for others with grace and courage; and

2 WHEREAS, Governor Edgar was preceded in death by his
3 parents, Cecil and Betty Edgar, and his brothers, Tom and
4 Fred; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Edgar is survived by his wife of 58
6 years, Brenda; his children, Brad (Stacey) and Elizabeth; five
7 grandchildren; his nieces and nephews; and his friends;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we mourn the passing of former Illinois Governor James R.
12 "Jim" Edgar and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
13 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to the family of Gov. Edgar as an expression of our
16 deepest sympathy.