



HR0559

LRB104 16494 LAW 29890 r

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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
4 Monsignor Doug "Father Doug" Hennessy of Bloomington, who
5 passed away on November 12, 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, Fr. Doug Hennessy, the son of Harry and Mary
7 O'Connor Hennessy, was born in Bloomington on February 21,
8 1938; he graduated from Trinity Grade and High School; he
9 attended Notre Dame University for two years before entering
10 the seminary and earning a degree in philosophy from St.
11 Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa; he completed his
12 preparation for the priesthood at the North American College
13 in Rome, Italy, and he received his bachelor's and licentiate
14 degrees in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome; and

15 WHEREAS, Fr. Doug Hennessy was ordained as a priest for
16 the Catholic Diocese of Peoria at the Church of the Twelve
17 Apostles in Rome on July 14, 1963; returning to the diocese, he
18 served as an associate pastor at St. Paul Catholic Church in
19 Macomb for three years; he then returned to school at Fordham
20 University in New York, receiving a Master of Arts in
21 Religious Education in 1968; upon his return to the diocese,
22 he served as diocesan director of religious education through
23 the summer of 1977; he later served as pastor at St. Patrick

1 Catholic Church in Urbana, St. Paul Catholic Church in
2 Danville, and Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Bloomington; he
3 also returned to the North American College, where he served
4 as part of the formation faculty for five years; and

5 WHEREAS, Fr. Doug Hennessy also served briefly as diocesan
6 vocation director on the Presbyteral Council of the Catholic
7 Diocese of Peoria and on the diocese's Personnel Board for
8 several terms; with Fr. Dick Bresnahan and later Fr. Tony Lee,
9 he served as a co-moderator of Social Justice for the diocese
10 for seven years and also served on the Diocesan Catholic
11 Charities Board; he retired as pastor of Holy Trinity Catholic
12 Church and from active ministry on July 14, 2013, the 50th
13 anniversary of his ordination; and

14 WHEREAS, Fr. Doug Hennessy championed the civil rights
15 movement during his career, and he became active in
16 immigration rights and other causes after his retirement; he
17 will be remembered for his kindness and his half-century of
18 service to the people of Central Illinois; and

19 WHEREAS, Fr. Doug Hennessy was preceded in death by his
20 parents; his sister, Marilyn Hennessy; and the many priests
21 and sisters who added to his life and his priestly ministry;
22 and

1 WHEREAS, Fr. Doug Hennessy is survived by his sister,
2 Eileen Griffin; his niece, Sheila; his nephews, Jim (Ester)
3 Griffin, Martin (Rachael) Griffin, Paul (Vanni) Griffin, and
4 Dan Griffin; his great-nephews and great-niece; and countless
5 people who allowed him to serve them as a priest; therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
8 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
9 we mourn the passing of Monsignor Doug "Father Doug" Hennessy
10 and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and
11 all who knew and loved him; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Fr. Doug Hennessy as an expression
14 of our deepest sympathy.