



SR0664

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the members of the Illinois Senate recognize the accomplishments and contributions made by exceptional officials and citizens of the State of Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Former Governor Jim Edgar was raised in Charleston and attended Eastern Illinois University, where his leadership was evident early on through his role as student body president; and

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WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was first elected to public office in 1977; he devoted himself fully to public service, serving with distinction as State Representative of the 53rd District, Illinois Secretary of State, and ultimately as the 38th Governor of Illinois, where he guided the State through some of its most challenging times with steady resolve and an unwavering commitment to the public good; and

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WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar, during his two terms as governor, steered Illinois through a budget deficit with courage and foresight, ensuring that essential services were preserved while restoring public confidence in government; and

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WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was a tireless advocate for education,

1 championing reforms that improved school funding and ensuring
2 that every child in Illinois had access to quality learning
3 opportunities, leaving behind a legacy of stronger, fairer
4 educational foundations for generations to come; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Gov. Edgar embodied the
6 rare spirit of true statesmanship, bridging political divides,
7 fostering bipartisanship, and demonstrating that respect and
8 cooperation among lawmakers were essential to building a
9 better future; and

10 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar's influence extended beyond public
11 office, being named a distinguished fellow at the University
12 of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a fellow of the National Academy
13 of Public Administration, and a resident fellow at Harvard
14 University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he
15 continued to shape young minds and inspire future leaders; and

16 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar served as chairman of the Abraham
17 Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and as a Laureate of
18 the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, carrying forward the legacy
19 of Illinois' most revered leader, Abraham Lincoln, and
20 exemplifying honesty, fairness, and a devotion to the common
21 good; and

22 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar also created the Edgar Fellows

1 Program, investing deeply in the next generation of civic
2 leaders by teaching that effective governance requires mutual
3 understanding, respect for differing views, and a commitment
4 to the greater good; and

5 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar's leadership, integrity, and humility
6 earned him the respect and admiration of citizens across
7 Illinois as well as the nation, and his dedication was
8 recognized with the Order of Lincoln, the State of Illinois'
9 highest honor; and

10 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar will be remembered beyond his titles
11 and accolades as a man of character and compassion whose
12 steady hand and servant's heart left an indelible mark on the
13 history and people of Illinois; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare July 22,
16 2026 as Governor Jim Edgar Day in the State of Illinois in
17 recognition of former Governor Jim Edgar's life, his legacy,
18 and his extraordinary career in public service; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Gov. Edgar as an expression of our
22 esteem and respect.