



HR0453

LRB102 20036 LAW 28861 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 Kenneth
4 Ray Richardson of Benton, who passed away on July 24, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Kenneth Richardson was born to Roy and Martha
6 (Beaty) Richardson one mile west of Snowflake on January 16,
7 1940; he enlisted in the National Guard on August 2, 1957; he
8 received his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri;
9 he attended supply school at Fort Knox in Kentucky, where he
10 was on active duty from September 1957 to March 1958; he
11 returned home and completed flight school; he married Shirley
12 Ann Gulley on June 19, 1960, and they had two sons, Stephen and
13 Barry, before she preceded him in death on May 24, 1973; he
14 later married Marleen McLain at the St. John the Baptist
15 Catholic Church in West Frankfort on February 14, 1974; and

16 WHEREAS, Kenneth Richardson served in the U.S. Army for 38
17 years and held every enlisted grade, including command
18 sergeant major; he served as the unit administrator while
19 stationed in West Frankfort from August 1957 to August 1985;
20 he served as the battalion command sergeant major and military
21 personnel technician while stationed in East St. Louis from
22 August 1985 to August 1990; after five years, he transferred
23 back to Mt. Vernon and served as the unit administrator;

1 during his military career, he received 34 letters of
2 appreciation, commendations, and 25 military decorations; he
3 attended 45 annual trainings in a number of locations,
4 including Alaska in 1983, Germany in 1988, Honduras four
5 times, and Panama three times in 1990; he served on
6 active-duty mobilizations, ranging from floods to student
7 riots and civil unrest, in 15 different states; he retired on
8 August 22, 1994; and

9 WHEREAS, After retiring, Kenneth Richardson was offered a
10 part-time job by his friend and Rend Lake College President
11 Mark Kern in the Security Department in February 1995; he
12 accepted, and his job developed into a full-time position by
13 September 1995; he enjoyed his time at the college, where he
14 was able work with young people again, and developed very good
15 relationships with his work colleagues; and

16 WHEREAS, Kenneth Richardson continued to serve his
17 community in various capacities; he previously served as the
18 chairman of the Franklin County Democrats, a precinct
19 committeeman, and a member of the Masonic and Odd Fellows
20 Cemetery Boards; he was a member of the Benton Masonic Lodge
21 #64 A.F. and A.M. and the Franklin County Housing Authority
22 Board; he attended the Immanuel Baptist Church; and

23 WHEREAS, Kenneth Richardson enjoyed attending his

1 grandchildren's sporting events, working on projects with his
2 family and neighbors, woodworking, and watching NASCAR; he
3 enjoyed spending time with his family most of all; and

4 WHEREAS, Kenneth Richardson was preceded in death by his
5 parents; his first wife, Shirley Ann Richardson; his sister,
6 Lois June (Dale) Greenwood; and his brothers, Charles
7 Richardson, Donald Richardson, and James Richardson; and

8 WHEREAS, Kenneth Richardson is survived by his wife of 47
9 years, Marleen Richardson; his sons, Stephen (Sherry)
10 Richardson, Barry (Toni) Richardson, and Brent McLain; his 12
11 grandchildren, Jason Richardson, Brittany Richardson, Autuam
12 (Kyle) Prater, Colton (Sierra) Hiestand, Bailey Hiestand and
13 Corey, Taylor Walden, Gus Walden, Sidney Walden (fiancée
14 Lane), Amelia McLain, Madilyn McLain, Gabe McLain, and
15 Analisse McLain; his eight great-grandchildren; his brother,
16 Dale (Janice) Richardson; his sisters-in-law, Brenda
17 Richardson and Jamie Richardson; and his several nieces,
18 nephews, and friends; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we mourn the passing of Kenneth Ray Richardson and extend our
22 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
23 and loved him; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Kenneth Richardson as an expression
3 of our deepest sympathy and in gratitude for his service to his
4 country, county, and community.