



SR0662

LRB102 21989 MST 31117 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of former Illinois State Senator and United States Congressman Harris Walter Fawell, who passed away on November 11, 2021; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Congressman Fawell was born in West Chicago; his father, Walter Fawell, served at one time as West Chicago's mayor; he grew up on a horse farm and graduated from West Chicago Community High School; he then earned a bachelor's degree from North Central College in Naperville in 1949; and

7

8

9

10

11

WHEREAS, Congressman Fawell was a gifted baseball player and earned a brief stint during college with a Detroit Tigers minor league affiliate in Greenville, South Carolina; while he was in high school, he and two of his brothers were members of the 1946 Fox Valley League championship baseball team from West Chicago, coached by their father; and

12

13

14

15

16

17

WHEREAS, Congressman Fawell earned a law degree from the Kent College of Law in 1952; his first professional jobs were as an assistant state's attorney in DuPage County and then in private legal practice; he then served from 1963 until 1977 as a Republican in the Illinois Senate, where he became known as a champion of local parks and sponsored legislation providing

18

19

20

21

22

1 parks for special needs children and adults throughout the  
2 State; and

3 WHEREAS, Congressman Fawell was known for his fiscal  
4 conservatism, which included leading a bipartisan  
5 "Porkbusters' Coalition" in Congress that decried excessive  
6 government spending on legislators' pet projects; he prepared  
7 and worked tirelessly for every vote; he was very patriotic  
8 about his country and was willing to diverge from his party  
9 when he saw the need; he was opposed to wasteful spending and  
10 was willing to meet any opponent to represent the taxpayers,  
11 which would occasionally antagonize people in his own party;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Fawell led the initiative to require  
14 developers to donate parkland in communities, which did not  
15 become law but resulted in Naperville's City Council enacting  
16 a law requiring developers to donate land or cash to the city's  
17 park district; he was one of only two Republican state  
18 senators to help support fair housing legislation in the 1960s  
19 and also is credited with having rewritten much of Illinois'  
20 property tax code while a state senator in the late 1960s; and

21 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Congressman Fawell  
22 had been married to his wife Ruth for 69 years and had been a  
23 resident of Naperville for more than 50 years; therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
4 former Illinois State Senator and United States Congressman  
5 Harris Walter Fawell and extend our sincere condolences to his  
6 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it  
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 presented to the family of Congressman Fawell as an expression  
10 of our deepest sympathy.