



HR0422

LRB103 34529 MST 64363 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened by the loss of former Illinois  
4 State Representative Donald Larry Wennlund, who passed way on  
5 May 15, 2022 at the age of 80; and

6           WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund was born in DeKalb on October 31,  
7 1941; he was a native of Illinois; he liked to be called by his  
8 middle name, Larry; and

9           WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund's father, Donald Wennlund, and his  
10 family moved to New Lenox; the Will County community was on the  
11 verge of what would be a period of explosive growth as part of  
12 greater Chicago; seeing these changes, and working with his  
13 friends in the New Lenox Lions Club, the senior Wennlund  
14 developed a patriotism-themed system of New Lenox public  
15 signage and Fourth of July celebration; this system, starting  
16 on July 4, 1970, helped make New Lenox the "Home of Proud  
17 Americans"; and

18           WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund was inspired by the Wennlund family  
19 and its example; pursuing schooling and higher education, he  
20 earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the  
21 University of Illinois in 1964; after working as a teacher, he  
22 attended law school at the University of Illinois Chicago

1 School of Law, earning his Juris Doctor in 1968; and

2 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund then passed the bar exam and was  
3 licensed to practice law in Illinois; he chose his hometown of  
4 New Lenox as a base for his practice and served Will County for  
5 more than half a century; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund, as a professional with teaching  
7 experience, was chosen by his neighbors to serve as a member of  
8 the board of New Lenox School District #122 and became  
9 president of the school board; and

10 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund was chosen by Republican leaders to  
11 fill a vacancy in the Illinois House of Representatives; when  
12 an Illinois congressional seat became open in mid-1986, the  
13 longtime Illinois House member from the 84th Representative  
14 District, Republican Jack Davis, moved to the U.S. House of  
15 Representatives; Davis had won his March 1986 re-election  
16 primary, and this move created an Illinois House vacancy that,  
17 under law, was filled by Republican leaders within the  
18 district; and

19 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund was chosen by the voters of the  
20 84th Representative District by a margin of more than 1,100  
21 votes to serve his first full term in the Illinois House on  
22 November 4, 1986; he served five terms from the 85th through

1 89th General Assemblies; and

2 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund became a committee spokesperson in  
3 his second term as a state representative, chosen to lead the  
4 Republicans in the House Committee on Aeronautics in 1989-90;  
5 he became the Republican spokesperson on the House Judiciary -  
6 Civil Law Committee in his third term; he also served as House  
7 Republican assistant floor leader; and

8 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund became an Illinois House Assistant  
9 Minority Leader in his fourth term and was part of the Illinois  
10 House Republican leadership team; when the Republicans won a  
11 House majority in the 89th General Assembly for the year 1995  
12 and 1996, he became the Illinois House Assistant Majority  
13 Leader; and

14 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund put his family and his home  
15 community of New Lenox first throughout his career; he chose  
16 not to seek re-election to the Illinois House of  
17 Representatives in 1996; and

18 WHEREAS, Rep. Wennlund, as a local leader and proud  
19 citizen of New Lenox, returned to his hometown and continued  
20 to practice law; and

21 WHEREAS, At the time of his passing, Rep. Wennlund was

1 survived by his wife of 58 years, Shirley Ann Major Wennlund;  
2 his four children, Jayna DeAngelis, Cass Wennlund, Dr. Joelle  
3 Wennlund, and Kara Singer; and many grandchildren and  
4 great-grandchildren; therefore be it; therefore, be it

5       RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we mourn the loss and observe the life of former Illinois State  
8 Representative Donald Larry Wennlund, a dedicated lawyer and a  
9 local leader in every sense of the word; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
11 presented to Rep. Wennlund's son, Cass Wennlund of New Lenox,  
12 on behalf of the entire Wennlund family.