



HR1327

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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 former
4 United States Representative Philip M. "Phil" Crane, who passed
5 away at the home of his daughter, Rebekah, on November 8, 2014;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane was born in Chicago on November 3,
8 1930; he graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale,
9 Michigan in 1952; he served the cause of freedom in the United
10 States Army from 1954 until 1956 and earned his Ph.D. from
11 Indiana University in 1963; and

12 WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane taught history at Bradley
13 University; while there, he gained national recognition in
14 politics as a charismatic and popular public speaker on behalf
15 of the Barry Goldwater presidential campaign in 1964; those
16 efforts, combined with the release of his 1964 book, "The
17 Democrat's Dilemma", elevated him as a leading national figure
18 in the fledgling conservative movement and the Republican
19 party; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1969, then-Congressman Donald Rumsfeld was
21 appointed by President Richard M. Nixon to head his
22 administration's Office of Economic Opportunity, leaving a

1 vacancy in Congress; Rep. Phil Crane ran for, and won, the
2 vacated seat, taking up his duties on November 25, 1969; and

3 WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane continued to represent Illinois in
4 Congress from 1969 until January 2005, a period of time that
5 spanned 4 redistricting cycles as his district moved
6 northwestward within the suburban Chicago area; during his time
7 in Congress, he was well known for his strong belief in and
8 adherence to Constitutional government and conservative
9 principles; and

10 WHEREAS, With America in crisis, the hostages trapped in
11 Iran, the then-powerful Soviet Union on the march worldwide,
12 and with concern that Ronald Reagan would not run for President
13 in 1980, Rep. Phil Crane threw his hat in the ring in 1978 for
14 the Republican nomination for President of the United States;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, As Republicans were commencing the process of
17 choosing Ronald Reagan as their standard-bearer as the 1980
18 presidential nominee, Rep. Phil Crane endorsed his fellow
19 Illinois native and flung himself into the task of moving
20 America forward, mobilizing political support for President
21 Reagan's election and standing up for enactment of the new
22 administration's policy goals, particularly in the field of tax
23 policy and tax cuts as a leading member of the House Ways and

1 Means Committee; and

2 WHEREAS, As a key congressional lieutenant for the Reagan
3 Administration, as a member of the United States House of
4 Representatives for more than 35 years, and as a true believer
5 in the intersection of electoral politics with political
6 principles, Rep. Phil Crane founded, co-founded, or took a
7 substantial role in the founding of the Republican Study
8 Committee, the Heritage Foundation, and the American
9 Conservative Union, groups that serve to this day as extremely
10 relevant and effective organizations in the development of
11 American policymaking; and

12 WHEREAS, During this time, Rep. Phil Crane never
13 relinquished his devotion to conservative principles, his
14 belief in peace through strength, the maintenance of America's
15 traditional values, and his commitment to free enterprise; and

16 WHEREAS, Rep. Phil Crane never lost his conviction that one
17 of America's greatest strengths was the American family; he
18 lived this conviction through the love and affection he
19 exhibited toward his late wife, Arlene, and their 8 children,
20 Catherine, Susanna, Rebekah, Jennifer, Sarah, George, Carrie,
21 and the late Rachel; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we mourn the passing of former United States Congressman Philip
3 M. "Phil" Crane; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we acknowledge Rep. Phil Crane's more than
5 35 years of public service as an Illinois representative to the
6 United States House of Representatives, his lifelong love of
7 the discipline of history, his commitment to Constitutional
8 principles, and his love of the traditions and values that have
9 made America the shining light of the world; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 presented to Rep. Phil Crane's 7 surviving children, Rebekah
12 Crane, Susanna Crane, Sarah Crane, Catherine Hott, Jennifer
13 Oliver, Carrie Crane, and George Crane.