



HR1535

LRB099 24199 MRW 51913 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate their colleague, David R.
4 Leitch, on the occasion of his retirement as State
5 Representative of the 73rd District after a long and
6 distinguished career of public service; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch was born on August 2, 1948
8 in Three Rivers, Michigan, the son of Duncan and Eunice Leitch,
9 a county agricultural extension agent and a homemaker and
10 teacher. The family included sister, Carol Fries, and brothers,
11 Brian and Paul, now deceased; and

12 WHEREAS, On Representative Leitch's 16th birthday, his
13 family moved to East Peoria; he attended East Peoria Community
14 High School; he was elected class president his senior year,
15 editor of the newspaper, and worked on the referendum to create
16 Illinois Central College while still in high school; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch was selected for the
18 Journal Star Regional Scholarship; he started working as a copy
19 boy in May of 1966; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1970, Representative Leitch graduated from
21 Kalamazoo College with a B.A. in History; he became a full-time

1 reporter for the Peoria Journal Star, covering city and State
2 politics and general assignments, beginning in June of 1970;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In December 1974, Representative Leitch was asked
5 to lead the Peoria Downtown Development Council as its new
6 president, where he worked to implement the Downtown Peoria
7 Plan intended to make Peoria a leading business and
8 entertainment hub with the Peoria Civic Center, the University
9 of Illinois Medical School relocation to downtown, and the
10 restoration of the Peoria Hotel Pere Marquette; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1980, the Downtown Development Council was
12 winding down and Representative Leitch joined the Commercial
13 National Bank as Vice President of Area Development; and

14 WHEREAS, When State Senator Prescott Bloom died in January
15 1986, David Leitch was appointed to fill out his term in the
16 Illinois State Senate; later in 1988, he succeeded State
17 Representative Fred Tuerk in the Illinois House of
18 Representatives; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1990, Representative Leitch passed a
20 long-awaited bill to require insurance coverage of mammograms;
21 he was one of only 5 legislators to vote "No" on increasing
22 Cost-of-Living Adjustment's in the system to a 3 percent

1 compounded rate; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to his diligent and dedicated work on
3 issues of government reform, business climate, and
4 agricultural issues, Representative Leitch focused on helping
5 mentally ill and developmentally disabled citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, With the goal of improving services for mental
7 health recovery, Representative Leitch created the Central
8 Illinois Coalition for Mental Health Recovery, designed to
9 bring together the community-based agencies and Methodist
10 Medical Center to work on issues plaguing the mentally ill in
11 the community, a group which he has regularly met with for over
12 16 years; among their accomplishments are establishment of
13 Peoria County Mental Health Court, creation of a psychiatric
14 residency program at Methodist Medical Center, and creation of
15 the Community Crisis Center, whose purpose is to keep the
16 mentally ill out of emergency rooms and jail; and

17 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch passed landmark
18 legislation, including first-in-the-nation cord blood stem
19 cell donation legislation, Good Samaritan laws to allow doctors
20 to donate their services to community clinics where doctors
21 practice for free, and laws requiring improving health care
22 delivery to the mentally ill and developmentally disabled; and

1 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch secured \$18 million for the
2 Illinois Central College East Peoria campus which enabled the
3 college to build the mechanical and industrial building
4 (Caterpillar diesel technology program), IT building, career
5 center (later named in his honor) and a horticulture facility;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch later secured the Zeller
8 Mental Health Center, a 64-acre, 225,000 square foot complex
9 for the North campus of Illinois Central College in Peoria; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch led local legislators in
11 securing a \$10 million loan to prevent the bankruptcy of
12 Keystone Steel & Wire; the effort saved over 1,200 jobs; the
13 entire loan has been repaid, and the company is thriving; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch has always held a strong
15 commitment to constituent service in public office and
16 personally worked hard on problems brought to him by his
17 constituents and communities he represented in the Illinois
18 House; he instilled an environment in his office to work as
19 hard as possible to help people with problems; serve
20 communities and people he represented; and

21 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch's service to our State and
22 the Illinois House of Representatives grew when he was asked to

1 serve as an Assistant Republican Leader from 1993-94,
2 1997-2001, 2009-2010; as an Assistant Majority Leader from
3 1995-1997; and as Deputy Republican Leader from 2011-2016; and

4 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch's service to his community
5 went beyond his public service in Springfield, including: Heart
6 of Illinois United Way, past President; 20 year member of the
7 United Way of Illinois Board; United Way of America Government
8 Relations Committee; Heartland Community Health Clinic Board;
9 the Hemophilia Center of Central and Northern Illinois;
10 Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Founder of
11 the Government Involvement & Leadership School Peoria Chamber
12 of Commerce; Founder, and past Chair of the Peoria Convention
13 and Visitor's Bureau; and Riverfront Business District
14 Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch is currently a member of the
16 Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, the Public Building
17 Commission of Peoria (past Chair), Rotary Club of Downtown
18 Peoria, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation Board; and

19 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch's service has been
20 recognized with over 75 "Legislator of the Year" Awards or
21 their equivalency, including the American Medical Association
22 Dr. Nathan David State Legislator of the Year Award in the
23 United States in 1998, the Dr. Joseph Solovy Award from the

1 University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria in 2007,
2 the Tom Connor Community Service Award in 2011, the Community
3 Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois' President's
4 Award in 2015 and the Peoria Historical Society's de Tonti
5 Award in 2016, among countless others; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch has 3 adult children Sarah
7 (Todd) Stille, Ben Leitch, and Elizabeth (Matt) Kunz and 4
8 grandchildren, Bennett Stille, Dallyn Stille, Reid Stille, and
9 Kathryn Kunz; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Leitch has shown great commitment,
11 effectiveness, and vision in serving his constituents
12 throughout his legislative career; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
14 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
15 honor and congratulate State Representative David R. Leitch for
16 his work in the Illinois House of Representatives and wish him
17 our best on his retirement; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to Representative Leitch as an expression of our
20 esteem and respect.