



SR2581

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, State Senator John Sullivan has represented the citizens of the State of Illinois and the residents of the 47th Legislative District since 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan was elected in 2002 to represent the historically Republican district with the distinction of being the only Democrat State Senator with two Republican representatives and the largest geographical State Senate District in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, As a working farmer in the State Senate and a lifelong resident of the 47th Senate District, Senator Sullivan has first-hand knowledge of agriculture and has been an effective voice in Springfield for farmers across Illinois; during his service as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he worked with great diligence to make sure current laws evolved to meet new demands and that new laws were created with the best interests of Illinois farmers in mind; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan was awarded the Friend of Agriculture award by the Illinois Farm Bureau ACTIVATOR seven times for standing up for Illinois farmers; he worked to ensure Illinois consistently took advantage of crop-based fuels by expanding ethanol tax incentives to include soy-based diesel

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1 fuels and providing three million dollars for research to  
2 invest further in this technology to grow the Illinois  
3 agriculture industry and decrease dependence on foreign oil;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Putting political affiliation aside, Senator  
6 Sullivan served as the chief negotiator for the 2009 \$31  
7 billion capital construction program that addressed vital  
8 regional priorities such as the Macomb bypass and continued  
9 construction towards a four-lane U.S. 34 between Monmouth and  
10 Burlington; and

11 WHEREAS, During his time in the Senate, Senator Sullivan  
12 has looked for every way the State could save money and cut  
13 down on wasteful spending; this is evident by his success in  
14 spearheading bipartisan legislation to find \$9.2 million in  
15 yearly savings by changing the way the Temporary Assistance to  
16 Needy Families (TANF) entitlement program is administered by  
17 limiting retroactive payments; ultimately the legislation  
18 passed the House and Senate with unanimous support; and

19 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan, an avid hunter, worked to  
20 protect the Second Amendment rights of Illinois residents by  
21 securing the passage of concealed carry laws, extending deer  
22 hunting hours, youth hunting licenses, creating otter hunting  
23 season, and updating concealed carry laws to allow competent

1 and qualified hunters with mild disabilities to obtain a  
2 concealed carry permit; and

3 WHEREAS, Understanding the importance of creating future  
4 jobs and taking care of our vulnerable populations, Senator  
5 Sullivan worked to create a consensus to open a new treatment  
6 facility in Rushville for those seeking treatment for sexually  
7 violent behavior by hosting local meetings in Rushville to  
8 answer questions and provide assurances to concerned community  
9 residents and then later fighting for a \$13 million expansion  
10 to alleviate overcrowding in the facility; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan has worked hard to enhance  
12 transportation and economic development opportunities in  
13 Quincy by helping to secure over \$1.2 million in State funding  
14 to revitalize downtown Quincy and make sure it is safe,  
15 accessible, and well-lit for residents; and

16 WHEREAS, Putting veterans first, Senator Sullivan worked  
17 diligently to secure and protect veterans at the Quincy  
18 Veterans Home by securing over \$16.3 million to keep the Quincy  
19 Veterans Home Guest House open, funding safety renovations and  
20 repairs; and

21 WHEREAS, To honor returning Illinois veterans and help them  
22 find gainful employment, Senator Sullivan wrote and passed a

1 law with unanimous support to implement a 20% tax credit for  
2 Illinois employers when they hire an unemployed veteran who has  
3 served on active duty since September 11, 2001; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan believes in true constituent  
5 service and common sense legislation; he has worked with many  
6 of his constituents to write laws to address the needs of  
7 Illinois residents, such as his initiative to increase  
8 educational opportunities for Illinois National Guard members  
9 by allowing Guard members to be eligible for a grant for up to  
10 one year after their service ends to make sure Illinois  
11 veterans are able to take advantage of these vital benefits;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan, recognizing the importance of  
14 investing in higher education due to the economic and  
15 educational benefits, secured over \$820 million in funding for  
16 Western Illinois University in Macomb; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan understands the importance of  
18 working with every stakeholder, regardless of their political  
19 party, to guarantee the residents of the 47th State Senate  
20 District are represented to the best of his ability which can  
21 be seen by the support he has received by a wide variety of  
22 organizations, unions and associations such as the Illinois  
23 Farm Bureau, Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs

1 (IAAF), the Illinois Association of Soil and Water Conservation  
2 Districts, and Extension Partners, the Illinois Manufacturers'  
3 Association, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois  
4 AFL-CIO, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois  
5 Education Association, University Professionals of Illinois,  
6 the National Rifle Association, the Illinois Fraternal Order of  
7 Police, and many others; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan has built a reputation as an  
9 effective legislator who is always willing to reach across the  
10 political aisle to work in a bipartisan manner; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Sullivan is the devoted husband of 33  
12 years to Joan Sullivan; the loving father of son, Matt, and  
13 daughter-in-law, Karla; daughter, Emily; son, Luke, and  
14 daughter-in-law, Charlene; son, Mark; and granddaughters,  
15 Elaine, Audrey, Molly, and Rosie; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator John  
18 Sullivan for his dedicated service to the people of Western  
19 Illinois and honor him with this resolution; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to Senator John Sullivan with our best wishes for his  
22 future endeavors.