



HR1216

LRB098 21933 GRL 60795 r

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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 Robert
4 Avery Weaver of Peoria, who passed away on July 4, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was born on August 25, 1923 in
6 Fisher; his parents were Avery and Lena Weaver; and

7 WHEREAS, At the age of 12, Robert Weaver borrowed money to
8 purchase his first Angus heifer; in 1942, he moved to Peoria
9 County to farm the Robin's Nest Farm; while in Peoria, he met
10 his wife at the Ann Street Mennonite Church; he and his wife
11 later attended the First United Methodist Church of Peoria; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1948, Robert Weaver and his wife purchased what
13 would become Weaver Angus Farm in Peoria; from its humble
14 beginnings, he built Weaver Enterprises into a successful,
15 diversified family business on the principles of hard work,
16 integrity, and vision; in 1964, he came to an agreement with
17 Colonel Harlan Sanders on a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise
18 partnership over a handshake; over the years, several KFC
19 franchises would form the nucleus of Weaver Enterprises; and

20 WHEREAS, A farmer at heart, Robert Weaver also owned one of
21 the premier herds of Black Angus cattle in the country; he

1 enjoyed exhibiting his pleasure driving horses at competitions
2 and events throughout the country and in Canada and England;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was a member of many charitable
5 boards; he was a founder of Youth Farm and particularly enjoyed
6 his years of service on the Salvation Army Advisory Board,
7 where he was an emeritus board member; he was a member of the
8 New York Coaching Club and the Coaching Club of England; he was
9 an honorary life director of the Carriage Association of
10 America; he served as president of the Illinois Angus
11 Association and the Mennonite Relief Sale; he was also a member
12 of the Board of Governors of the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto
13 and the Youth for Christ Board; and

14 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was a recipient of the William Booth
15 Award and the "Others" Award for his lifetime of service to his
16 community; he was a recipient of the Pioneer Angus Breeder
17 Award; he was an honoree in the American Angus Association
18 Heritage Hall of Fame and the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame;
19 he and his wife were also jointly honored as the Association of
20 Fundraising Professionals Philanthropists of the Year and as
21 Easter Seals Tribute Dinner honorees; and

22 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was preceded in death by his parents
23 and 5 siblings, Florence Baltz Simonson, Opal Wilson, Glenn

1 Weaver, Dorothy Birkey, and Dr. Floyd Weaver; and

2 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver is survived by his wife of 69 years,
3 Virginia (nee Garber) Weaver; his children, Jerry (Nancy)
4 Weaver, Phyllis (Don) Crouch, Steve (Shelley) Weaver, Karen
5 (Bob Vespa) Weaver, and Chuck (Laurie) Weaver; a sister,
6 Darlene Weaver; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren;
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
10 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of
11 Robert Avery Weaver; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Robert Weaver as an expression of
14 our sympathy.