



HR0287

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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 Richard
4 C. "Dick" "The Big Kahuna" Weis, former Mayor of Freeport, who
5 passed away on April 2, 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to
7 Richard Albert and Dorothy (Hammer) Weis on April 27, 1936; he
8 attended the Clark Street School and then the Gehnslen
9 Orthopedic School through 1949; he then attended Craig School
10 for seventh and eighth grades and graduated from Wauwatosa High
11 School in 1955; he married Carolyn Mitton on November 24, 1956;
12 he received his Bachelor of Science from the University of
13 Wisconsin in 1976; and

14 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis began a career in broadcasting at WRIT
15 Radio in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; he was a reporter for the
16 Northwest Reporter in Milwaukee from 1956 to 1959; he was
17 publisher of Teen Beat from 1959 to 1961 and served as an
18 account executive at W-Rochester Institute of Technology Radio
19 from 1961 to 1963; he went onto become the sales manager at
20 WYLO Radio from 1963 to 1965, WUTU Channel 18 in Milwaukee from
21 1965 to 1970,; from 1970 to 1978 he was the General Manager at
22 the Schlitz Broadcast Division of the Jos. Schlitz Brewing
23 Company, which owned the radio and television broadcast rights

1 for the Milwaukee Brewers, Marquette University, the
2 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Bucks; he
3 hired Bob Uecker, Tom Collins, Eddie Doucette, and Merle
4 Harmon; from 1978 to 1981, he built Channel 24 WCGV-TV in
5 Milwaukee from the ground up and began the country's first
6 pay-per-view service in 1979; in 1981, he bought the radio
7 station WFPS and was the owner of Weis Inc. in Freeport from
8 1981 to 1989; and

9 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis coached Concordia Jr. High and High
10 School basketball from 1966 to 1970; he also coached the
11 Concordia Jr. College basketball teams from 1973 to 1978, where
12 he won the State Championship in the 1973-74 and 1977-78
13 seasons; he began Concordia's four-year basketball program for
14 the 1978-79 season, and in his last year of coaching, the
15 1979-80 season, the Falcons had their second trip to the
16 National Little College Tournament; he also assisted Concordia
17 football coach Andy Luptak as receivers, defense backs, and
18 special teams coach; many of his former players retained
19 cherished friendships with him throughout his life; he also
20 played on and managed Raabe Paint fast pitch softball teams
21 through the 1979 season; and

22 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis is a member of the Concordia/Wisconsin
23 Athletic Hall of Fame, and is a member of the Major League
24 Baseball Players Alumni Association; and

1 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis is listed in Who's Who in American
2 Broadcasting, Coaching, and Politics; he was a Paul Harris
3 Fellow with the Freeport Noon Rotary Club; he was awarded the
4 Rotary Club's Community Image Award and was named the Junior
5 Chamber of Commerce Boss of the Year; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis served as Mayor of Freeport from 1989
7 to 1997; he worked with the National League of Cities and the
8 United States Conference of Mayors; and

9 WHEREAS, After the passing of his first wife, Mayor Weis
10 married Sandra Wallmo at Krape Park in Freeport on October 11,
11 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis was named Volunteer of the Year by
13 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Services in 1990 and
14 Outstanding Citizen by Freeport International Fellowship in
15 1992; he helped with Muscular Dystrophy causes in Milwaukee,
16 Wisconsin in 1974, served as President of Crime Stoppers in
17 Freeport in 1984, and worked with Greater Downtown Freeport in
18 1985; he was President of the Freeport Chamber of Commerce in
19 1986 and also served as President of the Noon Rotary Club; he
20 was a volunteer for VietNow in 1990, served as a board member
21 for the Illinois Municipal League from 1989 to 1990, and served
22 as a board member of the American Leadership in 1994; and

1 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis spent 17 years soliciting mittens and
2 caps for children, and one year filled two semis of food for
3 the food pantry while sitting in an outdoor toilet; in 2011, he
4 and his wife, Sandy, raised funds and established the Coach
5 Weis Endowment Fund at Concordia University/Wisconsin, giving
6 students with disabilities yearly financial aide at Concordia;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis was preceded in death by his parents;
9 his first wife, Carolyn; his daughter, Dawn Lenzke; and his
10 sister, Joan Dieringer; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Weis is survived by his wife, Sandy; his
12 daughters, Sandra (Scott) Summers, Debbie (Ken) Moore, Sherrie
13 Larson, and Lorie (Conor) Arendt; his stepdaughter, Elizabeth
14 Wallmo; his son-in-law, Jim Lenzke; 15 grandchildren; 21
15 great-grandchildren; and many good friends; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 mourn the passing of Richard C. Weis, former Mayor of Freeport,
19 and extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and
20 all who knew and loved him; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Mayor Weis as an expression of our
2 deepest sympathy.