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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush was born to an upper-class New England family in Milton, Massachusetts on June 12, 1924, in an age when airplanes had four wings and money was made up of gold coins; and

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WHEREAS, In June of 1942, immediately after graduating from an elite prep school, the teenaged President Bush enlisted in the U.S. Navy and set off to fight in World War II; choosing the dangerous service of naval aviation, he learned to take off from, and land on, aircraft carriers; and

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WHEREAS, This led to one of President Bush's closest connections with the State of Illinois; as German and Japanese submarines were active in all of America's coastal salt waters, the U.S. Navy devised a way to train its new air groups on fresh water; a large Chicago-based steamboat was stripped of its upper works and turned into a coal-burning flattop, the U.S.S. Sable; from the Glenview Naval Air Station and the Lake Michigan-based Sable, hundreds of young American men, including Bush, learned the difficult and dangerous art of naval aviation; and

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WHEREAS, After earning his wings, President Bush became one of the two youngest aviators in the U.S. Navy and was assigned

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1 to the U.S.S. San Jacinto's Torpedo Squadron 51 for combat
2 service in the Pacific; and

3 WHEREAS, President Bush piloted planes assigned to the
4 dangerous duties of spotting and observation of enemy forces
5 and emplacements, as well as releasing bombs; on September 2,
6 1944, while attacking the Japanese-held island of Chichijima in
7 the Bonin Archipelago, his plane was hit and rendered
8 unflyable; he was forced to bail out with an inflatable raft
9 and floated in unfriendly waters until rescued by an American
10 submarine; and

11 WHEREAS, After this incident, President Bush returned to
12 combat duties in Western Pacific and Philippine waters until
13 the squadron was rotated out in late 1944; he had flown 58
14 combat missions and earned the Distinguished Flying Cross; and

15 WHEREAS, President Bush was able to spend the final months
16 of the war stateside; in January of 1945, he married his
17 sweetheart, Barbara Pierce; with the end of the war in August
18 of 1945, he was discharged from the services and allowed to
19 resume his education; he chose Yale College as his place of
20 higher study; and

21 WHEREAS, President Bush studied economics at Yale; the
22 dormitory life of younger students was not for him as he was

1 already a married man; their first son, George W. Bush, was
2 born in New Haven in July of 1946; the future 43rd President's
3 father graduated from Yale as a member of the Class of 1948;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, As President Bush and Barbara wished to make their
6 own way in the world, in 1948 they left their New England
7 family homes, got into a Studebaker car with their young son,
8 and drove across America to the booming oil fields of the
9 Permian Basin in far west Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, As postwar America became a "car culture", oil
11 industry leaders like President Bush and Barbara were at the
12 forefront; developing technology encouraged the Bush family to
13 move from Midland, Texas to Houston, where the President and
14 his friends organized one of the first firms to successfully
15 drill for crude oil in the open waters of the Gulf of Mexico;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, As a respected leader of the Houston business
18 community, President Bush was elected to the United States
19 House of Representatives in 1966, becoming one of the first
20 Republicans elected to Congress from Texas in the 20th century;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, After leaving Congress in 1971, President Bush

1 served in a succession of high-level posts in the Nixon and
2 Ford Administrations, including U.S. Ambassador to the United
3 Nations (1971-1973), Chairman of the Republican National
4 Committee (1973-1974), Chief of Liaison to the People's
5 Republican of China (1974-1975), and Director of the Central
6 Intelligence Agency (1976-1977); and

7 WHEREAS, As one of the most experienced candidates for
8 national office in U.S. history, President Bush was chosen in
9 August of 1980 by Ronald Reagan, a man who became Bush's mentor
10 and close friend, to be his vice presidential candidate; the
11 Reagan-Bush ticket was elected in a landslide in November of
12 1980, with Illinois voting for Reagan and Bush; and

13 WHEREAS, After serving as Vice President for eight years,
14 President Bush sought the presidency in his own right; he was
15 nominated by the Republicans and elected by his fellow citizens
16 in November of 1988; and

17 WHEREAS, This victory included the votes of 2.3 million
18 Illinoisans, who enabled the Republican candidate to carry the
19 Land of Lincoln and win Illinois' 24 electoral votes; and

20 WHEREAS, Almost from the moment he stepped into the Oval
21 Office, President Bush was faced with intense challenges; the
22 Berlin Wall fell in November of 1989, destroying the paradigms

1 that had governed U.S. foreign policy since World War II and
2 creating a new world; and

3 WHEREAS, Although this was a triumphant world for the
4 United States, it was also one of increasing and frightening
5 challenges; the collapse of bipolarity liberated a lot of
6 national leaders and insurgent leaders, including terrorists,
7 to do bad things; and

8 WHEREAS, In August of 1990, the dictator of Iraq, Saddam
9 Hussein, invaded and annexed the independent country of Kuwait;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Utilizing the experiences he had gained from his
12 time in combat through his time in senior U.S. diplomacy and
13 summitry, President Bush led an international coalition that
14 defeated Hussein's forces, threw them out of Kuwait, and
15 restored peace to the Persian Gulf region; and

16 WHEREAS, The Gulf War Coalition, which was active in
17 1990-91, comprised almost 1.0 million active service members,
18 of whom 700,000 were U.S. troops; despite the size of this
19 immense mobilization, only 149 American service members were
20 killed in combat; and

21 WHEREAS, Although the leadership of President Bush will

1 forever be associated with the challenges of foreign policy and
2 his leadership in the Gulf War, the 41st president was also
3 active with many challenges of U.S. domestic policy; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the features of the President Bush
5 Administration was sustained and cordial relations between
6 both parties in Congress, which allowed many new laws to be
7 passed, including measures that helped many broad segments of
8 the American people; and

9 WHEREAS, President Bush was able to sign many significant
10 measures into federal law, including the Americans With
11 Disabilities Act of 1990; and

12 WHEREAS, After leaving office in 1993, President George and
13 First Lady Barbara Bush returned to private life in Texas; the
14 couple enjoyed going to baseball games played by their favorite
15 team, the Houston Astros, and the company of their children,
16 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, President Bush enjoyed relatively good health
18 until the final years of his life and marked his 80th and 90th
19 birthdays with parachute jumps from a plane, a feat which had
20 saved his life in the U.S. Navy more than half a century
21 earlier; and

1 WHEREAS, In an honor shared by only one other American
2 President, John Adams, President Bush was able to see one of
3 his children, eldest son George W. Bush, elected the 43rd
4 President of the United States in November of 2000; and

5 WHEREAS, In retirement, President Bush is known to have
6 been a close advisor and counsel to President George W. Bush in
7 the immense challenges faced by the new president, including
8 the events of 9/11; and

9 WHEREAS, Continuing his pattern of strongly partisan but
10 never embittered relations with Democrats, President Bush
11 developed close and friendly relations with fellow Presidents
12 Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama; and

13 WHEREAS, President Bush's final year of life was saddened
14 by the death of his beloved wife, Barbara; he assured the
15 nation that his wife had been sustained, and he continued to be
16 sustained, by their active Christian faith and belief that
17 their family would be reunited; and

18 WHEREAS, In the eyes of many observers, this faith was a
19 key to President Bush's entire life, including his repeated
20 assertion that a healthy America would be made up not of a
21 powerful leader and passive residents, but rather of "a
22 thousand points of light" made up of active citizens practicing

1 selfless leadership in their communities; and

2 WHEREAS, In the final hours of November, late Friday,
3 November 30, 2018, Illinois and the United States of America
4 were saddened to learn that President Bush had died in his
5 Texas home at the age of 94; and

6 WHEREAS, The life of President Bush would be remembered in
7 state ceremonies in Washington, D.C., and he would be laid to
8 rest in the place set aside by the American people for the
9 commemoration of his life and leadership, the George H. W. Bush
10 Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas;
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
13 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
14 solemnly remember, commemorate, and express gratitude for the
15 life of George H. W. Bush, World War II warrior and 41st
16 President of the United States; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That we pay particular attention to the fact that
18 President Bush's life reaffirms that we are all Americans; a
19 true leader is highly partisan with his friends, highly civil
20 with his adversaries, and remembers that light has many points;
21 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 presented to the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and
3 Museum and to George H.W. Bush's son, the 43rd President,
4 George W. Bush.