



HR0419

LRB101 12663 MST 61228 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, On September 7, 1969, United States Senator
3 Everett McKinley Dirksen died of complications from lung
4 cancer; and

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WHEREAS, Senator Dirksen served the citizens of Illinois as
6 a United States Senator from 1951 to 1969 and as a United
7 States Representative from 1933 to 1949; and

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9 WHEREAS, In 1950, Senator Dirksen was elected for the first
10 time to the United States Senate, defeating the sitting
Majority Leader Scott Lucas of Havana; and

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12 WHEREAS, Senator Dirksen rose through the ranks of
13 leadership, eventually serving as U.S. Senate Minority Leader
from 1959 until his death ten years later; and

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15 WHEREAS, Senator Dirksen played key roles in passing the
16 Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the
17 Open Housing Act of 1968, while never leading more than 36
Republicans in the Democrat-controlled U.S. Senate; and

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19 WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was a crowning
20 achievement during which Senator Dirksen helped deliver 27
Republican votes to end a four-month filibuster, thereby

1 allowing the passage of this landmark legislation; and

2 WHEREAS, The legacy and leadership of Senator Dirksen
3 continues to live on through The Dirksen Congressional Center
4 in his beloved hometown of Pekin; and

5 WHEREAS, Following Senator Dirksen's death, he lay in state
6 in the U.S. Capitol rotunda; he was returned to Pekin to be
7 buried at Glendale Memorial Gardens; and

8 WHEREAS, September 7, 2019 will be the 50th anniversary of
9 the death of Senator Dirksen; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
11 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we honor the memory and lasting legacy of one of our State's
13 favorite sons, United States Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen,
14 upon the 50th anniversary of his death; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of Senator Dirksen and to The Dirksen
17 Congressional Center as a symbol of our respect and esteem.