



HR0496

LRB101 13805 MST 62672 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Paul Findley was born in Jacksonville in Morgan
3 County on June 2, 1921; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois into which Paul Findley was born was
5 a land in which almost half the people of the State, and well
6 more than half of the people of Central Illinois, rode horses,
7 planted crops, and used draft animals to work their farms; and

8 WHEREAS, The Central Illinois of 1921 was a world where
9 many living men had fought in the Civil War, and many living
10 men and women had memories of Abraham Lincoln and had heard him
11 speak or had exchanged words with him; and

12 WHEREAS, After graduating from Illinois College in
13 Jacksonville, Paul Findley joined the U.S. Navy for service in
14 World War II; he was commissioned as a lieutenant (junior
15 grade) and served in active duty in the Pacific Theater; and

16 WHEREAS, A member of the "Greatest Generation", Paul
17 Findley met his future wife Lucille and returned home to
18 Central Illinois, where he married, raised a family, published
19 a local newspaper, and served as a leader of his community; as
20 a respected voice of Central Illinois, he was elected to an
21 open seat in the U.S. Congress in the election of November of

1 1960; and

2 WHEREAS, As a Republican member in eleven Congresses from
3 the Eighty-Seventh (1961-1963) until the Ninety-Seventh
4 (1981-1983), Representative Paul Findley saw and participated
5 in some of the most controversial and suspenseful moments of
6 our national history; he was a lawmaker during the Cuban
7 Missile Crisis, the "Green Revolution" that completed the
8 mechanization of farming, the Vietnam War, the upsurge of crime
9 and disorder that accompanied the Sixties, and the outburst of
10 national doubt that we call the "energy crisis"; and

11 WHEREAS, As a loyal Republican but also as an independent
12 thinker, Rep. Findley developed his own views on America's
13 place in the world; not afraid of controversy, he shared these
14 views with determination during, and after, his time in
15 Congress; and

16 WHEREAS, Having talked in boyhood with Central Illinois
17 neighbors who had known and heard the words spoken by Abraham
18 Lincoln, Rep. Findley was conscious of the role of his Central
19 Illinois congressional district as "Lincoln's District", the
20 future President having represented part of it in Congress in
21 1847-49; and

22 WHEREAS, As a lawmaker who was also a historian, Rep.

1 Findley, in 1979, wrote and published "Abraham Lincoln: The
2 Crucible of Congress", a pioneering work based upon original
3 documents preserved in the Library of Congress that showed the
4 complexity of challenges that faced a member of Congress from
5 the minority party in the 1840s and how Lincoln grew in guile
6 and skill as he faced these challenges anticipating his future
7 life as a leading statewide lawyer, national candidate, and
8 President of the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, "Crucible" was only one of the six books Rep.
10 Findley wrote and published in his lifetime, speaking out on
11 issues of national and international interest and importance;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, On August 9, 2019, former Rep. Paul Findley died
14 in Jacksonville, the place of his birth, at age 98; and

15 WHEREAS, People like Rep. Findley, who served in uniform in
16 World War II and came home to serve as lawmakers, are now
17 passing from the scene; and

18 WHEREAS, Rep. Findley was a warrior who loved peace, a
19 staunch, partisan figure; not everyone agreed with everything
20 he had to say, however, all will agree that here was a man who
21 spoke out and said what was in his heart, and it is not clear
22 how such men can be replaced in today's America; therefore, be

1 it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn the passing of Paul Findley, a son of Illinois
5 College, a veteran of the United States Navy, and, for 22
6 years, a member of the U.S. Congress from the State of
7 Illinois; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That more important than these lawmaking honors
9 was Rep. Findley's life as a son of Central Illinois and the
10 family he helped build to share this good land with him; and be
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
13 presented to Paul and Lucille Findley's son, Craig Findley, and
14 to their daughter, Diane Findley, on behalf of Paul and Lucille
15 Findley's grandchildren and great-grandchildren.