



HR0506

LRB101 13103 ALS 61940 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Jerome "Jerry" Joyce of Reddick, who passed away on June 19, 2019; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Joyce was born to Will and Rosella (Engles) Joyce on June 14, 1939; the youngest of four children, he was raised on his family farm and attended Reddick High School; he married his high school sweetheart, Janet Meece, and they raised their four children on that same family farm; and

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WHEREAS, Jerry Joyce was a farmer and raised and showed sheep; he was elected township supervisor and then served on the Kankakee County Board; he was elected to the Senate in November 1974; he served in the Senate from January 1975 until his retirement in April 1992; after his retirement, he was replaced by his wife, Janet, who served the remainder of his term, which concluded in January 1993; and

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WHEREAS, Throughout much of his tenure, Jerry Joyce was the only farmer in the Senate and championed agricultural, environmental, and local issues for his community; he advocated for the Kankakee River and the Kankakee River State Park; he was a key figure in converting the former sprawling Manteno State Hospital campus into alternative uses upon its closure at

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1 the end of 1985; he was a key player in the creation of the  
2 1,017-acre Mazonia/Braidwood State Fish & Wildlife Area in  
3 Grundy County; he supported the Illiana Expressway, the I-355  
4 southern extension, and the proposed third Chicagoland  
5 airport; he was part of the "Crazy 8" group of independent  
6 Democratic state senators that formed to provide a greater  
7 impact on downstate matters; the group's formation led members  
8 to gain better committee assignments, and he served as the vice  
9 chair of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Energy Committee;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Jerry Joyce enjoyed good food, cooking, flowers,  
12 bird watching, hunting, fishing, traveling, and collecting  
13 knives and decoys; he loved his Key West crew, family, friends,  
14 and community; and

15 WHEREAS, Jerry Joyce was preceded in death by his parents;  
16 his wife, Janet; his granddaughter, Katelyn Marie Joyce; his  
17 grandson in infancy, Allen Forneris; his brothers, William  
18 Joyce and Joseph Joyce; and his sister, Patricia Stotland; and

19 WHEREAS, Jerry Joyce is survived by his son, Patrick (Rita)  
20 Joyce; his daughters, Judy (Dennis) Forneris, Lori (Tom)  
21 Cullen, and Karen (Darren) Barker; his seven grandchildren; his  
22 six great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews;  
23 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
3 we mourn the passing of Jerome "Jerry" Joyce and extend our  
4 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
5 and loved him; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
7 presented to the family of Jerry Joyce as an expression of our  
8 deepest sympathy.