



HR0524

LRB101 14448 MST 63370 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are deeply saddened to learn of the death of
4 Kenneth L. Pickerill, who passed away on September 12, 2019;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill was born near Summit, Kentucky
7 to William and Luna (Pence) Pickerill on December 14, 1927; and

8 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill, known for his tremendous
9 athletic ability and storied contributions to high school
10 football, both as a player and coach, began his career at
11 Streator High School in 1942; and

12 WHEREAS, Always true to his passion for helping others,
13 Kenneth Pickerill enlisted in the U.S. Navy after graduating
14 from high school in 1945 and served aboard the U.S.S. Gosselin;
15 he proudly served his country and was honorably discharged in
16 1948; and

17 WHEREAS, Upon returning from his tour of duty, Kenneth
18 Pickerill enrolled at Northern Illinois University (NIU),
19 where he resumed his football career and became NIU's starting
20 quarterback; during his time at NIU, he met Jaqueline "Jackie"
21 Brooks, who would eventually become his wife for 48 years until

1 her death in 2001; and

2 WHEREAS, After graduating from NIU, Kenneth Pickerill
3 began his teaching and coaching career at Oswego High School,
4 while continuing his education and earning a master's degree in
5 1959; in 1971, he and Jackie opened The Jaqueline Shop in
6 downtown Oswego, which became a thriving business that served
7 Oswego residents for 25 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Known as the "Ultimate Panther", Kenneth
9 Pickerill was a stalwart of Oswego High School sports; although
10 he may be best and most widely known for his success on the
11 football field, he was successful in coaching multiple sports,
12 ultimately becoming athletic director for the school and head
13 football, wrestling, and baseball coach; he earned five
14 football championships in his 15 years of coaching Panthers
15 football, coached eight all-state wrestlers, and won three
16 state wrestling championships; he also coached Panther
17 baseball for nine years and led them to one district and one
18 regional championship; and

19 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill's strong record of leadership,
20 mentorship, and demonstrable success coaching Oswego High
21 School athletes earned him inductions into the Illinois High
22 School Wrestling, Baseball, and Football halls of fame;
23 additionally, he earned an Illinois Merit Award from the

1 Illinois State Board of Education in 1998; and

2 WHEREAS, While Kenneth Pickerill will undoubtedly be
3 remembered for his accomplishments on the field, those who knew
4 him understand that he was proudest of his accomplishments off
5 the field; he was a loving husband, kind uncle, and friend to
6 all; and

7 WHEREAS, With words of encouragement or a donation of his
8 own time or resources, Kenneth Pickerill was always willing to
9 give for the betterment of others, be it a friend or stranger;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill will forever be known as a man
12 who always gave to his community without the need for
13 recognition, reward, or acknowledgement; and

14 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill's legacy is one that will be
15 remembered by the Oswego community and discussed for
16 generations to come; and

17 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill was preceded in death by his
18 beloved wife, Jacqueline; his parents; his sisters, Eula Adams
19 and Rosave Handy; and his brother, Charles Pickerill; and

20 WHEREAS, Kenneth Pickerill is survived by his sister,

1 Martha Vanko; numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and
2 grandnephews; and the countless young men and women who had the
3 great pleasure of learning, growing, and succeeding under his
4 direction, both as a teacher and coach; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
6 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of Kenneth L. Pickerill and extend our
8 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
9 and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Kenneth Pickerill as an expression
12 of our deepest sympathy.