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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Richard
4 E. "Rich" Herrin, who passed away on December 25, 2020; and

5 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin attended several grade schools and
6 graduated from Bridgeport High School in 1951; he graduated
7 from McKendree University in Lebanon in 1956, where he earned
8 11 varsity letters in basketball, track, golf, and baseball; he
9 received his master's degree from Southern Illinois University
10 Carbondale (SIU) in the summer of 1962; and

11 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin married Martha Sue Cooksey on December
12 21, 1957, whom he met accidentally at a SIU football game in
13 the fall of 1956; and

14 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin's career began in the small community
15 of Okawville in the fall of 1956; he taught and coached the
16 Rockets for four years, where he had great success with a team
17 of talented and dedicated young men; he and his family moved to
18 Benton in the summer of 1960, where he began a 25-year span of
19 exciting and successful teaching and coaching the Rangers,
20 compiling an astonishing record number of wins that led to 21
21 regional tournament wins and five trips to the state
22 tournament; in 1982, the Benton High School gymnasium was named

1 in his honor; and

2 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin began his college coaching career at
3 SIU in 1985, leading the Salukis for 13 years; he was named the
4 Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Coach of the Year in 1990 and
5 led the Salukis to their first and only three-peat by winning
6 the MVC Tournament three times in a row, which allowed the
7 Salukis to play in the NCAA tournament three times, in 1993,
8 1994, and 1995; in 2002, he began coaching for the Marion
9 Wildcats for five years; he finalized his 52-year coaching
10 career at Morthland College in West Frankfort, coaching five
11 more years, where he won the Christian College National
12 Invitational Tournament Championship in 2016; and

13 WHEREAS, By the end of his career, Rich Herrin had amassed
14 an amazing total of 981 victories; many of his players earned
15 college scholarships; a large number of his players became
16 basketball coaches, and several played in the NBA; besides his
17 loving family, the impact he had on so many young lives is one
18 of his greatest legacies; and

19 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin received many honors during his
20 illustrious career; in addition to the St. Louis Sports Hall of
21 Fame and the Southern Illinois Coaches Hall of Fame, he was
22 inducted into several other halls of fame, including those of
23 McKendree University, SIU, the Illinois Basketball Coaches

1 Association, and the Missouri Valley Conference; and

2 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin was known throughout most of his life
3 as "Coach Herrin" and taught his players many skills, both on
4 and off the basketball court; and

5 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin dedicated decades of his life in
6 service to the youth of Southern Illinois and had a lasting
7 impact on the lives of his players, students, family, and
8 friends; and

9 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin was a treasured husband, father,
10 grandfather, coach, and friend; and

11 WHEREAS, Rich Herrin was preceded in death by his parents;
12 his brother, Ron; his mother-in-law and father-in-law,
13 Elizabeth and Ben Cooksey; his brothers-in-law, Glen Zilmer and
14 Jack Richey; his niece, Tara (Zilmer) Kaiser; and his
15 great-nephew, Cameron Herrin Vennard; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
17 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
18 we mourn the passing of Coach Richard E. "Rich" Herrin and
19 extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all
20 who knew and loved him; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Rich Herrin as an expression of our
3 deepest sympathy.