



SR1165

LRB101 21213 MST 71782 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Keith C. Kesler of Urbana, who passed away on March 15, 2020; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Kesler was born to Roy and Helen Kesler in rural Dewey on January 13, 1925; he married Evelyn Burley on January 25, 1948, and they resided on Evelyn's family's centennial farm; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Kesler called himself first and foremost a farmer; he was named Farm Leader of the Year by The News-Gazette in 1980 and was selected as an Illinois Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer Magazine in 1995; his love of agriculture extended to the county and state fairs of Illinois, where he was active for his entire adult life; and

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WHEREAS, Keith Kesler received many awards for his service; the Illinois Department of Agriculture presented him a gold pin in the shape of Illinois imprinted with the name Mr. Fair, designating him Mr. Fair of Illinois; in 2001, Gov. George H. Ryan proclaimed July 25, 2001 as Keith Kesler Day; the Champaign County Fair named its Exhibit Hall as Kesler Hall in honor of his over 50 years of tireless service to the fair; and

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1 WHEREAS, Keith Kesler's life of service included volunteer
2 work for many county and state organizations; he served as
3 president of the Stanton Center School Board and received an
4 alumni award from 4-H in 1975; he was also proud to have been
5 an usher at the First United Methodist Church of Champaign for
6 over 40 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Keith Kesler enjoyed having his children,
8 grandchildren, and great-grandchildren spend time at The Farm,
9 where they rode the variety of little tractors and trucks that
10 he fabricated himself in his farm workshop; and

11 WHEREAS, Keith Kesler felt very fortunate to have his
12 entire family together for a Thanksgiving picture that he
13 proudly displayed by his favorite chair at The Farm and then
14 later in his room at Country Health Care & Rehab; and

15 WHEREAS, Keith Kesler was preceded in death by his wife,
16 Evelyn; his parents; his sisters, Joan and Marvel; and his
17 brothers, Clyde and Delmar; and

18 WHEREAS, Keith Kesler is survived by his sons, Stephen
19 (Becky), Michael (Vicki), and Scott (Joyce); his twin brother,
20 Kenneth; and his sister, Francis; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
2 Keith C. Kesler and extend our sincere condolences to his
3 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the family of Keith Kesler as an expression of our
7 deepest sympathy.