



HR0083

LRB102 10742 LAW 16071 r

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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 Joseph
4 A. "Joe" Terronez of Silvis, who passed away on January 2,
5 2021; and

6 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez was born in a boxcar in the
7 Silvis yards to Benito and Felisa Anguiano Terronez on
8 February 15, 1929; he attended Silvis public schools and
9 graduated from United Township High School in 1947; he married
10 Rebecca Herrera on November 6, 1948, and they had 8 children;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez worked as a repairman for the
13 International Harvester Company in East Moline for 33 years;
14 he retired in 1984; and

15 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez served the City of Silvis for 30
16 years; he was elected First Ward alderman to the Silvis City
17 Council in 1963, and he served for 26 years; he then served as
18 mayor for four years from 1989 to 1993; he was the first
19 elected Hispanic mayor in the State of Illinois; during his
20 tenure, he worked tirelessly to rename the 2nd Street in
21 Silvis to Hero Street, USA and establish the Hero Street
22 Memorial Park, a living memorial to the eight Mexican

1 Americans from Hero Street who died during combat in World War
2 II and Korea and all heroes from Silvis; he was dedicated to
3 promoting Hero Street and honoring its heroes; he visited
4 schools and libraries to teach students about Hero Street,
5 sent copies of the Hero Street documentary to libraries and
6 colleges across the country, and gifted copies of the
7 documentary to visiting dignitaries; and

8 WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Joseph Terronez was a
9 member of several labor, political, civic, and religious
10 organizations; he was a proud union member and leader of the
11 United Auto Workers (UAW), where he served as union
12 committeeman and played a part in securing better wages, job
13 security, and insurance benefits for union members; he was
14 loyal to the Democratic Party, and he mentored and assisted
15 many Hispanics in winning elections to hold public office in
16 the Quad Cities area; he proudly worked with veterans, and he
17 was an honorary member of the Mexican American Veterans
18 Association (MAVA) and the Hero Street Memorial Committee; and

19 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez received numerous honors and
20 awards at the local, state, and national levels for his
21 accomplishments in labor, politics, and community service,
22 including the Civic Leadership Award in 1985 and the National
23 Hispanic Hero Award presented at the United States Hispanic
24 Annual Leadership Conference in Chicago in 1996; he was named

1 Silvis Hometown Hero and Moonlight Parade Grand Marshal in
2 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez was deeply committed to his faith
4 and was a lifelong member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church; he
5 enjoyed watching sports, and he was an avid Chicago Cubs and
6 Chicago Bears fan; he also enjoyed participating in special
7 family celebrations, attending his grandchildren's sporting
8 events, visiting family, and walking through the city; he
9 loved Silvis and was known for often saying his strength and
10 pride came from Silvis; he will be deeply missed; and

11 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez was preceded in death by his
12 parents; his wife; his sons, Lencho Terronez and Joseph
13 Sebastian Terronez (infant); his daughter, Barbara Morrow; his
14 sisters, Ezekia, Theresa Sierra, Gabriela Moreno, Jessie
15 Vallejo, Mary Medina, Antonia Perez, and Angela Ayala; his
16 brothers, Alvino Terronez and Guadalupe Terronez; and several
17 in-laws; and

18 WHEREAS, Joseph Terronez is survived by his children,
19 Darrell (Cindy) Terronez, Roberta Terronez, Rebecca Terronez,
20 Mary Terronez, and Lydia (Javier) Riojas; his 13
21 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; 12
22 great-great-grandchildren; his brother, Bennie (Belin)
23 Terronez; his sisters, Nellie Munos, Cruz Cervantes, and

1 Delores (Richard) Esparza; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn the passing of Joseph A. "Joe" Terronez and extend our
5 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
6 and loved him; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Joseph Terronez as an expression of
9 our deepest sympathy.