



HR0350

LRB102 18643 MST 27011 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Everett Atkinson
4 on the occasion of his 99th birthday on June 5, 2021; and

5 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson was born in the home of his
6 parents, Emery Pearl and Hallie Winnifred Moore Atkinson, who
7 lived on then-muddy Harmony Road; he was the eldest of four
8 boys; he graduated from Barren's one-room county school when
9 he was 12 years old and in the eighth grade; and

10 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson attended Mt. Vernon Township
11 High School for his freshman year until his mother became ill
12 with pneumonia; the doctor was unable to reach her due to the
13 mud-laden roads, and she passed away at age 33; he dropped out
14 of school to assist his father on the dairy farm with chores
15 and with raising his three younger siblings; and

16 WHEREAS, On the day Everett Atkinson overheard the radio
17 announcement of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he told his
18 father he wanted to enlist in the Army; he then hitch-hiked to
19 Scott Air Force Base on a sunny Sunday in May 1942 and
20 officially enlisted in the U.S. Army in the Metropolitan
21 Building in East St. Louis; given the choice of artillery,
22 infantry, cavalry, or air corps, he chose the latter; and

1 WHEREAS, By July 21, 1942, Everett Atkinson was appointed
2 Student Squadron Sargent Major and officially became an
3 Aviation Cadet on November 2, 1942; he then took additional
4 training as an electrical specialist and applied for Cadet; he
5 had to pass Aviation Entrance Exams, along with 25 other
6 servicemen; he was concerned because he had only completed
7 ninth grade, but he was pleasantly surprised to find out that
8 he was one of five or six who had passed the exam; and

9 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson's desire to learn and excel in
10 every facet of aviation led to higher learning and experiences
11 with pilots, navigators, bombardiers, ground prep school, and
12 advanced single-engine classes at numerous bases across the
13 United States; he ultimately became a Commissioned 2nd
14 Lieutenant on August 30, 1943 and became a Flight Instructor
15 in the Army Air Forces; during that time, he was elected to the
16 Honor Committee and graduated in the top 10 percent of his
17 class; and

18 WHEREAS, While on a 10-day leave, Everett Atkinson met and
19 fell in love with Doris Louise McCauley; they said their vows
20 on December 3, 1943 and enjoyed many years of matrimony until
21 she passed on April 24, 2009; and

22 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson was honorably discharged on

1 February 15, 1946 as a First Lieutenant and returned to Mt.
2 Vernon, where he and Doris raised their family of three
3 children, Ruth Ann Clark-Wheeler, Rebecca Louise Hill, and
4 Dennis Dale Atkinson; the family now includes seven
5 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

6 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson provided for his family by
7 working for his father's dairy farm, which had been owned by
8 his wife's family until 1949; he purchased the farm in 1965;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson had recently served with Mentors
11 4 Kids and is currently volunteering in Hospice for Veterans;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In October 2018, Everett Atkinson visited
14 Washington, D.C. as part of the Veterans Honor Flight; and

15 WHEREAS, Everett Atkinson's view of life and tragedies
16 faced by all is "hang in there, there is a light at the end of
17 the tunnel and the sun comes up every morning in the East.
18 There are still many chances to love and enjoy life.";
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that

1 we congratulate Everett Atkinson on the occasion of his 99th
2 birthday, and we thank him for his years of service; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to Evertt Atkinson as an expression of our respect
6 and esteem.