



HR0633

LRB102 23441 MST 32612 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Gene Alexander; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Alexander, known to all as "Mr. A", was a lifelong resident of Benton, where he spent decades positively impacting the lives of thousands of young Southern Illinoisans as a teacher, principal, coach, and mentor; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Alexander served his country in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956; and

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WHEREAS, Gene Alexander touched many lives through his giving spirit and compassion for others; he filled the needs of young people and adults alike with his scholarships and daily trips to provide for the food pantry as well as his support of fundraisers, youth activities, church, and school; and

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WHEREAS, In addition to giving financially to others, Gene Alexander inspired young people and made memories for others by sharing a quarter if they said "Say no to drugs"; his question, "Are you huggable" always preceded his free hugs as many will remember, and his "Pay It Forward" \$20 bill given out

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1 each Christmas season was helpful to many; and

2 WHEREAS, Gene Alexander provided programs for his teachers  
3 and students at schools and Rend Lake College; he swept  
4 parking lots very early in the morning at various businesses  
5 and, at the same time, had perfect attendance as a volunteer to  
6 read daily to students at Benton Grade School and Head Start;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Gene Alexander painted over 700 classrooms and  
9 was well known for painting 352 U.S. maps on the playgrounds at  
10 various schools in Illinois, three in Kentucky, and three in  
11 Missouri; he also donated 200 books to the Benton Public  
12 Library as birthday gifts to friends and colleagues through  
13 the years; and

14 WHEREAS, Gene Alexander was a modest man, never seeking  
15 notoriety for his many good deeds; and

16 WHEREAS, Gene Alexander was chosen as Citizen of the Year,  
17 and a proclamation was made for a special Mr. A Day on November  
18 25, 2015; a bronze plaque hanging at the Gene R. Alexander  
19 Learning Resource Center at Benton Grade School notes his true  
20 character with the inscription as being a true gentleman,  
21 educator, motivator, character builder, and memory maker; and

1           WHEREAS, Gene Alexander was a member of the First  
2 Christian Church Disciples of Christ in Benton, where he  
3 served as an active deacon for 52 years, a Sunday school  
4 teacher, and an active participant in men's groups; and

5           WHEREAS, Gene Alexander was an inspiring educator, a  
6 Christian, and an unsurpassed giver of time and effort to  
7 others; he donated his body to science and, even in death,  
8 continues to be a useful teacher of medical students at the St.  
9 Louis University School of Medicine; therefore, be it

10           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
11 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
12 we mourn the loss of Gene "Mr. A" Alexander and celebrate his  
13 life and his many generous and loving contributions; and be it  
14 further

15           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
16 presented to the family of Gene Alexander as an expression of  
17 our deepest sympathy.