



HR0881

LRB102 28024 LAW 39823 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 former  
4 Illinois State Representative and United States Congressman  
5 John Edward Porter of Alexandria, Virginia, formerly of  
6 Evanston, who passed away on June 3, 2022 at the age of 87; and

7           WHEREAS, Congressman Porter was born in Evanston on June  
8 1, 1935; he graduated from Evanston Township High School; he  
9 then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; he  
10 received his Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts from  
11 Northwestern University in 1957; he served in the U.S. Army  
12 Reserve from 1958 to 1964; he earned his Juris Doctor from the  
13 University of Michigan Law School in 1961, where he made Law  
14 Review and graduated with distinction; passing the bar, he  
15 commenced the practice of law in Illinois; and

16           WHEREAS, As an Evanston community leader, Congressman  
17 Porter served as a director or an officer of the United  
18 Community Services of Evanston, the Evanston March of Dimes,  
19 the Southeast Evanston Association, the East Evanston  
20 Community Conference, the University Club of Evanston, the  
21 Evanston Historical Society, the Cove School for children with  
22 challenges, and the Evanston YMCA; and

1           WHEREAS, Congressman Porter ran and won as a Republican in  
2 the Illinois House of Representatives in the first election  
3 following the redistricting of the Illinois House and the  
4 Illinois Senate after the 1970 census; he served as a member of  
5 the Illinois House from 1973 to 1979, specializing in issues  
6 of conservation, fiscal restraint, and the criminal justice  
7 system; during his tenure, his voting record was honored by  
8 the League of Conservation Voters in 1973, the Independent  
9 Voters of Illinois in 1974, and the Chicago Crime Commission  
10 in 1976; and

11           WHEREAS, Congressman Porter successfully ran as a  
12 Republican for the vacancy in the then 10th U.S. House  
13 District within the State of Illinois due to the appointment  
14 and confirmation of Congressman Abner J. Mikva to the U.S.  
15 Court of Appeals in September 1979; he joined the U.S. House of  
16 Representatives on January 22, 1980; and

17           WHEREAS, Congressman Porter, as a member of Congress  
18 representing the North Shore of the Chicago metropolitan area  
19 and one of the best-educated U.S. House districts in the  
20 nation, found himself asked to speak out on a variety of  
21 issues, including issues of a bipartisan nature; and

22           WHEREAS, Congressman Porter won a coveted seat on the U.S.  
23 House Appropriations Committee, which gave him an insider's

1 voice on federal budget policy; his voice grew as time passed  
2 alongside the growth in numbers of his fellow Republicans in  
3 Congress; and

4 WHEREAS, Through seniority and his own expertise,  
5 Congressman Porter rose to become the chairperson of the  
6 federal House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and  
7 Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, giving him  
8 sign-off power over sections of the federal budget worth  
9 hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars; throughout this period,  
10 he continued to speak out as a voice for public sector fiscal  
11 restraint; and

12 WHEREAS, Congressman Porter became an advocate for growth  
13 and change in the 1980s and 1990s; when scientists came to him  
14 concerning advances in large-molecule research capabilities,  
15 he worked with them to achieve greater funding for the  
16 National Institutes of Health (NIH); his efforts allowed the  
17 NIH to pursue the Human Genome Project, which was aimed at  
18 identifying, mapping, and sequencing the DNA of the entire  
19 human genome, and the organization declared a complete genome  
20 had been sequenced in May 2021; and

21 WHEREAS, Congressman Porter also remembered Northwestern  
22 University while working in Congress, securing funding for the  
23 Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center on the Northwestern

1 Medical Campus in downtown Chicago and funding for the  
2 Pancoe-NSUHS Life Sciences Pavilion in Evanston; and

3 WHEREAS, Congressman Porter, after two decades in  
4 Congress, did not run for re-election in 2000; he was named as  
5 a recipient of the Mary Lasker Public Service Award for wise  
6 and perceptive leadership on behalf of medical research  
7 funding in 2000; he was also chosen as the namesake of the  
8 NIH's Neuroscience Research Center in Bethesda, Maryland in  
9 March 2014; and

10 WHEREAS, Upon his retirement in January 2001, Congressman  
11 Porter joined the Washington, D.C.-based private sector,  
12 practicing law and serving as an advisor to many policymaking  
13 and advisory institutions and panels; and

14 WHEREAS, Congressman Porter's legacy will live on in a  
15 myriad of ways; he helped many individuals get started in  
16 public service and professional life; he served as a mentor to  
17 young Congressional staff member Mark Kirk, who succeeded him  
18 in Congress as the U.S. Representative of Illinois' 10th  
19 District in 2001 before serving Illinois as a U.S. Senator  
20 from December 2010 to January 2017; he was a voice of fiscal  
21 restraint and forward vision and advocated for action on  
22 issues of global importance, which will have a lasting impact  
23 on the State of Illinois, the nation, and humankind; and

1           WHEREAS, Congressman Porter is survived by his spouse,  
2 Amy; his children and stepchildren, John, David, Annie, Robyn,  
3 Donna, McKay, and Michelle; and his 14 grandchildren;  
4 therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
6 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
7 we mourn the passing of former Illinois State Representative  
8 and United States Congressman John Edward Porter and extend  
9 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who  
10 knew and loved him; and be it further

11           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
12 presented to Congressman Porter's spouse, Amy, and his son,  
13 David Porter, as an expression of our deepest sympathy.