



HR0896

LRB102 28306 LAW 40177 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 LeRoy  
4 Franklin Lilly, who passed away on July 6, 2022; and

5           WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly was born to Vater Mae Fite and J.C.  
6 Lilly in Panola County, Texas on March 30, 1930; he graduated  
7 from Carthage Colored High School at 16 years of age; he served  
8 in the U.S. Air Force from July 1947 to July 1950, beginning  
9 his military service as a truck driver and an automotive  
10 equipment operator at the Kelly Air Force Base in Dallas  
11 before transferring to Alaska; after he was honorably  
12 discharged, he joined his family in Maywood, Illinois,  
13 continuing his studies to become a lab technician; and

14           WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly worked as a mechanical engineer at  
15 the American Can Company, known today as U.S. Steel; he  
16 retired after 42 years of service; and

17           WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly married Barbara Louise Rainey on  
18 November 17, 1957, and they had five children; they lived in  
19 the West Garfield Park community before moving to Oak Park in  
20 1971, where he raised his children for 30 years until his  
21 retirement; during those years, he and his wife were  
22 entrepreneurs, purchasing a six-unit building, owning a

1 barbeque joint, and purchasing five homes; and

2 WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly studied to become a 33rd Degree Mason  
3 of Bethlehem Lodge 14; he also earned the title of Night Temple  
4 and Mecca No. 2 within the Shriners organization; he was a  
5 member of VFW American Legion Post 13 in Plainfield and was  
6 honored in 2021 as the oldest surviving member at 91 years of  
7 age; and

8 WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly committed to his faith at an early  
9 age, becoming a baptized member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in  
10 Carthage, Texas; he was also a dedicated member of Bethel  
11 Lutheran Church for over 30 years, where he served as a deacon;  
12 alongside his wife, he joined the Neighborhood United  
13 Methodist Church after moving to Plainfield, Illinois, where  
14 he supported the Communion Board, loved bible study, and  
15 attended many church trips; and

16 WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly enjoyed being sociable and loved a  
17 good joke, good music, a good drink, and a good time; he  
18 enjoyed traveling and vacationing annually with his family;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly was a beloved father, grandfather,  
21 and great-grandfather known for being a man of few words,  
22 whose deeds spoke volumes to all who knew him; he will be

1 remembered for his quiet strength, soft smile, selflessness,  
2 and the love and support he gave to his family; and

3 WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly was preceded in death by his parents;  
4 his son, Darius LaRoi Lilly; his sisters, Vater Goodman and  
5 Billie June Neal; his uncles, Dan Lilly and Leon Conners; his  
6 aunts, Herese Bowman and Inez Chiszm; and his grandparents,  
7 Marvin and Selma Conners; and

8 WHEREAS, LeRoy Lilly is survived by his wife of 65 years,  
9 Barbara; his daughters, Iris James, State Representative  
10 Camille Y. Lilly, and K. Jasmyn Lilly; his son, Brian S. Lilly;  
11 his grandsons, Richard F. (Sharon) James, Darius J. Turner,  
12 former NBA player Evan M. Turner, and Brian S. Lilly II; his  
13 granddaughter, Briana Lilly; his great-grandsons, Richard F.  
14 Nii-Ayitey James II and Darius J. Turner Jr.; his  
15 great-granddaughter, Aubrey M. Turner; his niece, April  
16 (Vincent) Braggs; his nephews, Jerome Goodman and Kevin  
17 (Jackie) Neal; his cousins, Alyce Stewart, Joy Conners, and  
18 Melody Conners; and a host of great-nieces, great-nephews,  
19 cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
22 we mourn the passing of LeRoy Franklin Lilly and extend our  
23 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew

1 and loved him; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of LeRoy Lilly as an expression of our  
4 deepest sympathy.