



SR0455

LRB103 34098 ECR 63916 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of Jesse R. Smart, the former Mayor of
4 Bloomington, who passed away on August 25, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart was born to Kenneth and Bertha Smart
6 in Pearl on April 29, 1939; he graduated with a bachelor's
7 degree in agriculture education from the University of
8 Illinois; he married Susan Ann Stover in Centralia on July 16,
9 1961; and

10 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart taught vocational agriculture and
11 biology at Stanford High School in Stanford; he worked at Funk
12 Bros. Seed Co. and Ciba-Geigy Co. in Bloomington; he was
13 president and owner of Smart Seeds Inc. in Bloomington; and

14 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart served on the Bloomington City
15 Council from 1978 to 1985; he then served as Mayor of the City
16 of Bloomington from 1985 to 1997; and

17 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart served on many various commissions
18 and boards, including the Illinois State Board of Elections
19 from 2001 to 2015, during which he served as chairman and vice
20 chairman for eight years; he also served as executive director
21 and treasurer of the Western Seed Association for many years

1 and was chairman of the Farm Seed Division, American Seed
2 Trade Association; he formerly served as president of the
3 Illinois Seed Dealers Association, president of the Prairie
4 Aviation Air Show, captain of the Shrine Tin Lizzie Patrol,
5 president of the Young Men's Club, and treasurer of the
6 Mosbacher 4-H Scholarship Fund; he was a past member of
7 College Park Christian Church in Normal; he volunteered for
8 the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts and was a past
9 member of the Cultural Commission; and

10 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart was named McLean County Agriculture
11 Businessman of the Year in 1989 and a 2017 History Maker
12 Honoree by the McLean County Museum of History; and

13 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart was a loving husband and father who
14 never met a stranger; and

15 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart was preceded in death by his wife and
16 his infant son, Jeffrey; and

17 WHEREAS, Jesse Smart is survived by his children, Deborah
18 (Matthew) Barton and Gregory (Michelle) Smart; therefore, be
19 it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of

1 Jesse R. Smart, the former Mayor of Bloomington, and extend
2 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
3 knew and loved him; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
5 presented to the family of Jesse Smart as an expression of our
6 deepest sympathy.