



SR0623

LRB103 35529 LAW 65601 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened
3 to learn of the death of August Edward "AugE" Kerres of
4 Edgington, who passed away on November 24, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, August Kerres was born to August J. Kerres and
6 Miriam (Hartman) Kerres in Kewanee on March 1, 1931; he
7 graduated from Reynolds High School in 1949, where he was a
8 football player and cheerleader and was named Homecoming King;
9 he served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean War,
10 where he maintained Bell helicopters and earned multiple
11 letters of commendation and a Bronze Star for his service; he
12 married Mary Rose McGee in Rock Island on May 19, 1956, and
13 they settled in Edgington and raised four children together;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, After working several jobs, August Kerres began
16 working at Ben Rummel's service station in Edgington; he then
17 partnered with his brother-in-law, Louis Fowler, to run the
18 station, eventually becoming sole owner of Kerres Garage; he
19 ran the garage until officially closing it in 1988, but he
20 never stopped working, continuing farm and machinery repair
21 from 1953 to 2023; and

22 WHEREAS, August Kerres was a member of the American Legion

1 for 68 years, serving as commander several times; he also
2 drove the VA van for 25 years, arranged and participated in
3 Honor Guard for 35 years, and put flags up at the Legion and
4 the Edgington Cemetery three times a year for many years; and

5 WHEREAS, August Kerres was involved with the Rockridge
6 Rockets for decades, and he attended school board meetings for
7 more than 35 years, parked cars at the high school for 50
8 years, painted hashmarks on the Rockridge band practice field
9 for 15 years, drove school buses for 25 years, and worked on
10 buses in the bus barn until a few months before his passing;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, August Kerres enjoyed donating his time to his
13 community in a number of ways, including serving as a
14 volunteer fireman for 64 years, singing in the choir at St.
15 Patrick Catholic Church in Taylor Ridge for 54 years, making
16 ice cream for local churches and the fire station, and
17 conducting kiddie tractor pulls for 57 years; and

18 WHEREAS, August Kerres was very proud of his family and
19 enjoyed supporting their activities; he loved dogs and had
20 many beloved pets over the years, including Brownie, Tripod,
21 Cricket, and Fleabe; and

22 WHEREAS, August Kerres was preceded in death by his

1 parents; his sisters, Martha Jean and Dorothy (Louis) Fowler;
2 his brother, Gary Kerres; and his brother-in-law, Roger
3 Spivey; and

4 WHEREAS, August Kerres is survived by his wife of 67
5 years, Mary Rose; his children, Kathleen (Pat) Begyn, Diane
6 (Tim) Keller, Mike (Julie) Kerres, and Christine (Joe)
7 Malecki; his grandchildren, Erica (Travis) Figanbaum, Ben
8 (Kristi) Keller, Dustin (Lindsay) Begyn, Holley (Tyson)
9 Blaser, Cole (Abbey) Kerres, Sarah (Tony) Brown, Annie
10 Malecki, Jonah Malecki, and Luke Malecki; and 12
11 great-grandchildren, with one more baby due next year;
12 therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
15 August Edward "AugE" Kerres and extend our sincere condolences
16 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
19 presented to the family of August Kerres as an expression of
20 our deepest sympathy.