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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives were saddened to learn of the death of Robert J. "Pud" Williams; and

WHEREAS, Robert Williams was born on June 21, 1926 in Centerville to Robert P. Williams and Mamie O. (Vaught) Williams; and

WHEREAS, He attended high school in Carmi and went to college at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served in the United States Navy Seabees and served in Japan during World War II; he married Dorothy Givens in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was the Illinois Director of Agriculture from 1972-1976; during his service, he reduced the Department from 11 operating departments to 4 and eliminated duplication of services and saved man-hours, dollars, and created improved efficiency; and

WHEREAS, He worked with handicapped through his wife Dorothy and Roberta Walker to make the State Fairgrounds handicap accessible and was also instrumental in opening a 24 hour diagnostic lab at the University of Illinois to be open 365 days a year; and

WHEREAS, He served as Burnt Prairie Township Supervisor in White County from 1958 to 1972; in addition, he served on the Board of Supervisors for White County and was Chairman of the Board at one time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was instrumental in obtaining the

1 Centerville blacktop to provide rural people easy access to  
2 Carmi; he was on the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission which  
3 promoted traffic between Indiana and Illinois on the Wabash  
4 River; he also served on the Egyptian Health Department Board;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams was an entrepreneur and founded and  
7 owned Pundrake Petroleum Products in Carmi; he also owned and  
8 operated Pud Williams Farms in White County and Williams Grain  
9 Co. in Golden Gate; in addition, he developed IAP, Illinois  
10 Agriculture Product Trademark, a tool designed to promote and  
11 develop markets from Illinois Agriculture; with its logo it  
12 gives identity to the State's leading industry which is  
13 Agriculture; and

14 WHEREAS, The passing of Robert J. "Pud" Williams will be  
15 deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Dorothy; his daughter  
16 and son-in-law, Nancy and Ray Mitchell; his son and  
17 daughter-in-law, Kevin and Eileen Norton-Williams; his two  
18 granddaughters, Katherine Grace and Caroline Rose  
19 Norton-Williams; and his brother and sister-in-law, Larry and  
20 Judy Williams; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
23 mourn the passing of Robert J. "Pud" Williams along with all  
24 who knew and loved him and extend our sincere condolences to  
25 his family and friends; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
27 presented to the family of Robert J. "Pud" Williams as an  
28 expression of our deepest sympathy.