



HR0767

LRB095 13985 GRL 39802 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Louis M. Christen of Mattoon; and

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WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen was born on February 5, 1921 in Fieldon; he was the second son of Frank and Anastacia (Goddee) Christen; he married Jean Ashmore, who preceded him in death, in 1944; he married Freda Donnell in 1979; and

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WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen served as a navigator with the 303rd Bombardment Group flying missions from Molesworth, England during the Second World War; during one of his missions, after his plane was crippled by anti-aircraft fire, he successfully navigated his B-17 Bomber to a crash landing in eastern Poland, with every crewman surviving the crash; he enjoyed attending annual reunions with his compatriots until the group was disbanded in 2007; and

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WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen dedicated his professional life to the field of agricultural development; he began as an educator in Humboldt before becoming an assistant extension agent in Shelbyville; he served as a Coles County Cooperative Extension Service Farm Adviser from 1957 until his retirement in September 1982; many farmers would turn to him as a source

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1 of agricultural information, a valuable commodity before the  
2 advent of the Internet; after his retirement, he maintained an  
3 active presence as a regular at the twice-yearly meetings held  
4 by a group of retired Extension area advisers; and

5 WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen maintained a keen interest in  
6 local affairs; during his retirement, he served on the board of  
7 directors of The Bank in Charleston; he also served as The  
8 Bank's agricultural advisor; and

9 WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen positively affected the lives of  
10 many young people; he was one of the founders of the 4-H Club  
11 livestock auctions at the Coles County Fair in 1957 and was  
12 recently honored during the 50th anniversary of this tradition;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen always enjoyed the fellowship of  
15 humans and animals; for many years, he maintained a "menagerie"  
16 of peacocks, guineas, turkeys, and other strange feathered  
17 friends; he recently kept back yard feeders well-stocked and  
18 enjoyed watching his birds and keeping the squirrels at bay;  
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20 WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen was a devoted member and  
21 supporter of St. Paul's Lutheran Church; and

1           WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen is survived by his loving wife,  
2           Freda; his sons, David and wife Sandy and Darryl and wife Mona;  
3           his sister, Madonna Berry; his grandchildren, Holly Talbert and  
4           husband Chris, Elan Christen, Nathan Christen, and Dylan  
5           Christen; his stepchildren, Robert Donnell (wife Carol,  
6           deceased), Nancy Breningmeyer and husband Lloyd, William  
7           Donnell and wife Shirley, Linda Gargus (husband Kenny,  
8           deceased), J. Tom Donnell, Rena Roberts and husband Hilton; and  
9           his numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren;  
10          and

11          WHEREAS, Louis M. Christen was preceded in death by his  
12          first wife, Jean; his parents, Frank and Anastacia; his  
13          brothers, Frank, Eugene, Henry, Everett, and Neil; and his  
14          sister, Anastacia; therefore, be it

15          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16          NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17          mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of Louis  
18          M. Christen; and be it further

19          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20          presented to Louis M. Christen as a symbol of our esteem and  
21          respect.