



HJ0032

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Frank Watson's political career began when he was elected to the office of Bond County Central Township supervisor and trustee; in 1979, he was elected to serve in the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served until 1983, when he was elected to serve as Senator of the 55th District; he served the 55th district faithfully from 1983 until 2003, when legislative redistricting gave him a new district territory, the 51st District, and he was elected to served that district; he served as the Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate from 1993 to 2002 and as Senate Republican leader from 2003 until 2008; and

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WHEREAS, During his time in the Illinois General Assembly, Frank Watson became known as a leader in economic development, a believer in education reform, a fighter for Illinois coal, and, in an issue close to his heart, a champion in the fight for affordable prescription drugs; and

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WHEREAS, Frank Watson was and continues to be a great spokesman who fought an often-challenging Illinois political landscape to help not only the people of his district, but citizens across the State in the best way he knew how: by creating new laws and improving Illinois in ways that give its citizens the tools they needed to succeed in their lives; and

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1           WHEREAS, Even after resigning from the State Senate on his  
2 own accord, Frank Watson is still a mentor and advisor to  
3 Representatives and Senators alike; beyond the political  
4 scope, Frank Watson is a friend of many who consider themselves  
5 the beneficiary of the friendship; and

6           WHEREAS, Frank Watson and his wife, Susan, reside in  
7 Greenville; they have two adult children and one grandchild;  
8 therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
11 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of  
12 Interstate 70 from mile marker 23 to 65 as the Frank Watson  
13 Parkway in honor of Frank Watson and his contributions to the  
14 State of Illinois; and be it further

15           RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
16 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with  
17 State regulations, plaques or signs giving notice of the name;  
18 and be it further

19           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
20 presented to the Illinois Secretary of Transportation and Frank  
21 Watson.