



HR0983

LRB097 21222 KXB 68816 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois State University President Lloyd Watkins, who passed
5 away on March 1, 2012; he served as the University's 13th
6 president from 1977 to 1988; and

7 WHEREAS, Lloyd Watkins was not only a leader at Illinois
8 State University; he looked beyond the campus and was a leader
9 who made a difference in his community; during his presidency,
10 the University became the State headquarters of the Illinois
11 Special Olympics, attracting thousands of visitors to campus
12 each summer; and

13 WHEREAS, He served on numerous community and university
14 boards, including Normal's 2015 Committee, and helped small
15 businesses as a member of the Service Corps of Retired
16 Executives; and

17 WHEREAS, He focused on expanding international education
18 programs by creating exchanges with student centers in Austria,
19 France, England, Japan, China, Scotland, Germany, Italy, and
20 Spain; and

21 WHEREAS, He tirelessly advocated for Illinois State

1 University, worked to overcome a budget crisis in the early
2 1980s by launching a long-range planning effort, and put great
3 emphasis on obtaining grants and donations from the private
4 sector, a move his successors have continued to build upon; and

5 WHEREAS, During his tenure, he presided over numerous
6 capital improvement projects on campus including the
7 multimillion-dollar Redbird Arena; he launched 5 new academic
8 programs, including international business, public relations,
9 writing, applied computer sciences, and school psychology, and
10 also expanded the Honors program; and

11 WHEREAS, After serving 11 years as President of Illinois
12 State University, he retired in 1988; he continued to benefit
13 the University community by sharing his passion for learning by
14 teaching in the Communications Department until 1991; and

15 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents, Herman
16 and Lydia; and his first wife, Mary Ellen (Caudle) Watkins; and

17 WHEREAS, Lloyd Watkins is survived by his wife, Kay; his
18 sons, John L. Watkins (Margaret), Joseph W. Watkins (Michelle),
19 and Robert L. Watkins (Charmelle); his grandchildren, Ryan,
20 Reid, and Mariana Watkins and Lucas, Ehren, and Emma Watkins;
21 his step-children, Eric D. Bloomquist, Darin L. Bloomquist, and
22 Ellen K. Elliot; and his step-granddaughter, Faith A. Elliot;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we mourn, along with his family, friends, and former students,
5 the passing of Lloyd Watkins; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
7 presented to the family of Lloyd Watkins as a symbol of our
8 sincere sympathy.