



HR0300

LRB098 11933 GRL 45294 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 Olive Smith of Beardstown, who passed away on November 27, 2011; and

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WHEREAS, Olive Smith was born on November 27, 1914, in Beardstown; her parents were Lorenzo and Olive Southwell; and

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WHEREAS, Olive Smith moved with her family to western Kansas, where she attended school through the 6th grade; after her mother's health had deteriorated to such a condition that she could no longer cook for the family and farm hands, she became the chief cook and caretaker for her mother; and

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WHEREAS, Olive Smith met her husband, World War I Navy veteran Edward M. Smith, and they were married on March 3, 1931 in Gem, Kansas; and

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WHEREAS, Dust bowl weather conditions provided enough incentive to move a little farther west, so Olive Smith and her husband moved to eastern Colorado; Colorado blessed Olive and Ed with 2 children, Marie and Victor, and produced enough "no crop" years that they moved to Omaha, Nebraska to find employment with one of Edward's brothers; and

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1 WHEREAS, Omaha blessed Olive Smith and her husband with two
2 more children, Mitchell and Mary, and enough disappointment
3 that they moved back to Beardstown; Beardstown blessed the
4 couple with 4 more children, Alban, Nolan, Ruth, and Sandra;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Olive Smith was the inspiration for all 8 of her
7 children to graduate from Beardstown High School; during the
8 kids' school years, her home was always open to any needy
9 child, several of whom moved in to become part of the family;
10 most of the youngsters in the west end of Beardstown were
11 corrected by Olive for wrongdoing; three of her sons joined the
12 United States Navy, while the other son became a river boat
13 captain on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers; one daughter
14 became a nurse, two of her daughters became butchers, and the
15 other daughter a District Avon Representative; all of her
16 children survive her; and

17 WHEREAS, Following her husband's death in 1968, Olive Smith
18 was employed by the State of Illinois Mental Facility in
19 Jacksonville and moved there; and

20 WHEREAS, When Olive Smith retired from her employment with
21 the State, she returned to Beardstown, where she was active
22 with Guthrie-Pierce Post 1239 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars
23 Ladies Auxiliary; the Auxiliary sponsored Red Cross Blood

1 Drives at the Post every 56 days, wherein she served as the
2 blood drive caller for many years until her health deteriorated
3 too much to continue; and

4 WHEREAS, Olive Smith was the last surviving World War I
5 widow in Beardstown; her last act gift was for her body to be
6 donated to science; afterwards, she was to be cremated and the
7 ashes returned to be placed with her husband at Camp Butler,
8 where he awaits; and

9 WHEREAS, Olive Smith's ashes have been returned and
10 arrangements made for her to be interred in Camp Butler on May
11 8, 2013; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we mourn, along with her family and friends, the passing of
15 Olive Smith; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
17 presented to the family of Olive Smith as an expression of our
18 sympathy.