



HR0621

LRB098 14433 MST 49119 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 Robert W.  
4 Duncan of Marion, who passed away on October 12, 2013; and

5           WHEREAS, Robert Duncan was born on December 20, 1920 in  
6 Marion to Absalom Wesley and Nellie Mae (nee Drake) Duncan; he  
7 graduated from Marion High School and attended Southern  
8 Illinois University in Carbondale for 3 years before joining  
9 the United States Navy; he married Evelyn Russell on March 7,  
10 1943 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

11           WHEREAS, Robert Duncan joined the Navy at age 21 and had a  
12 26-year military career; he was one of the original members of  
13 the "Fighting Five" of the USS Yorktown, also dubbed "The  
14 Fighting Lady"; he earned the title "Fighter Ace" for the  
15 numerous successful aerial combat missions he was involved in  
16 during World War II; in recognition of his success, he was  
17 awarded the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest honor for  
18 extraordinary heroism, skilled airmanship, courage, and  
19 gallant devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming  
20 opposition; he was credited with flying more than 100 missions  
21 during World War II and the Korean War; he was honorably  
22 discharged in 1966 with the rank of naval captain; his exploits  
23 in the air were documented in 2007 in a History Channel series

1 entitled "Dogfights", about World War II fighter pilots; and

2 WHEREAS, Robert Duncan became a real estate broker with  
3 Rodd Realty of Marion for several years following his  
4 retirement from the Navy; and

5 WHEREAS, Robert Duncan served as Chairman of the Williamson  
6 County Regional Airport Board for 21 years, President of the  
7 Illinois Regional Airport Association, and Vice-President of  
8 Central Technology, Incorporated of Herrin; he was also a  
9 member of Marion Elks Lodge Benevolent and Protective Order of  
10 Elks No. 800, a 32nd Degree Mason, and a lifetime member of the  
11 Marion Veterans of Foreign Wars Heyde-Pillow Post 1301; in  
12 2001, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the  
13 Marion Area Chamber of Commerce; he was a longtime member of  
14 the First Baptist Church of Marion; and

15 WHEREAS, Robert Duncan was preceded in death by his parents  
16 and by his brother, Carl Duncan; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert Duncan is survived by his wife, Evelyn  
18 Duncan; his daughter, Janice L. (Scott) Magruder; his son,  
19 Steven L. Duncan; his grandson, David (Crystal) Magruder; his  
20 granddaughter, Heather (Brian) Townsend; his  
21 great-granddaughters, Devon Hayley Magruder and Madalynn Grace  
22 Magruder; and other extended family and many friends;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
4 we mourn the passing of Robert W. Duncan and extend our sincere  
5 condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved  
6 him; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the family of Robert Duncan as an expression of  
9 our deepest sympathy.