



HR0732

LRB098 15812 MST 50849 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Philip Nelson served as the 14th President of the Illinois Farm Bureau and as its full-time executive officer for 10 years, from December 2003 to December 2013; and

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WHEREAS, Philip Nelson has been an outstanding spokesperson for farmers and for all facets of Illinois agriculture, maintaining the highest level of integrity and honesty; and

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WHEREAS, Philip Nelson's knowledge of agricultural issues is highly regarded, resulting in expanded relationships on both sides of the aisle at both the State and federal level; and

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WHEREAS, Just days into Philip Nelson's first term as the Illinois Farm Bureau President, the first case of Mad Cow Disease was reported in the State of Washington; he took immediate action to instill consumer confidence by voicing his support for the quick action the United States Department of Agriculture took to ban downer cattle from getting into our nation's food supply; and

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WHEREAS, Philip Nelson led the charge to create the Saluting Agriculture Specialty License Plate, which has brought in more than \$310,000 to the Illinois Agricultural

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1 Association Foundation's Ag in the Classroom efforts; and

2 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson led the Illinois Farm Bureau through
3 tough issues that would have harmed farmers and rural economies
4 such as the potential creation of a gross receipts tax; he
5 defended agriculture against numerous regulatory affronts; and

6 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson took a leadership role in bringing
7 Illinois food and agricultural industries together on many
8 initiatives, including Illinois Ag in the Classroom, Vision for
9 Illinois Agriculture, and Illinois Farm Families; and

10 WHEREAS, Prior to being elected President of the Illinois
11 Farm Bureau, Philip Nelson served as Vice-President of the
12 organization from 1999 to 2003; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Philip Nelson has been
14 extremely involved in both State and national agricultural
15 organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson has held numerous agricultural
17 leadership positions over the years, including serving as
18 President of the Illinois Soybean Association from 1989 to
19 1991, President of the LaSalle County Farm Bureau from 1993 to
20 1999, Vice-President of the American Soybean Association from
21 1993 to 1994, and Chairman of the American Farm Bureau

1 Federation's Swine Advisory Committee from 1997 to 2000; and

2 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson served with distinction as a
3 director of the American Farm Bureau Federation from 2004 to
4 2013 and served as Chair of the American Farm Bureau Federation
5 Trade Advisory Committee from 2009 to 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson was named Future Farmers of America
7 Star Farmer of Illinois in 1977 and the American Farm Bureau
8 Federation's National Outstanding Young Farmer in 1984; and

9 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson was named Prairie Farmer Master
10 Farmer in 2001; and

11 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson represented farmers' interests on
12 the first United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
13 Biotechnology Advisory Committee, and the Federal Grain
14 Inspection Service Advisory Committee; he currently serves on
15 the USDA Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade
16 and Animals and Animal Products; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2012, Joliet Junior College presented Philip
18 Nelson with its Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award; and

19 WHEREAS, Philip Nelson and his wife Carmen operate a
20 fourth-generation grain and livestock farm near Seneca, where

1 they grow corn, soybeans, and alfalfa, and run a cow-calf
2 operation; he and his wife have 3 children, Kendall, Kyle, and
3 Rachel; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we commend Philip Nelson on his dedication to Illinois
7 agriculture and congratulate him on his 10 years of service as
8 the President of the Illinois Farm Bureau; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to Philip Nelson as an expression of our esteem and
11 respect.