



HR0819

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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 W.  
4 Russell Withers, Jr. of Mt. Vernon, who passed away on January  
5 24, 2014; and

6           WHEREAS, W. Russell Withers, Jr. was born on December 10,  
7 1936 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri; his parents were W.R.  
8 Withers, Sr. and Ruth H. Withers; and

9           WHEREAS, W. Russell Withers, Jr. was the founder of the  
10 Withers Broadcasting Companies; and

11           WHEREAS, W. Russell Withers, Jr. was a member of Mt. Vernon  
12 Masonic Lodge 31, Scottish Rites/Valley of Southern Illinois in  
13 Belleville, the Jefferson County Shrine Club of Mt. Vernon, and  
14 Shrine International - AINAD, AINAD Shrine Center, East St.  
15 Louis; he was a board member of the Mt. Vernon Convention and  
16 Visitors Bureau and the Mt. Vernon Industrial Development  
17 Commission; he was a board member and one of the founders of  
18 Crime Stoppers of Jefferson County; he served as chairman of  
19 the Mt. Vernon Airport Authority and the Illinois Public  
20 Airport Association; he was a board member and chairman of the  
21 radio board of the National Association of Broadcasters  
22 representing Illinois; he was a member of the executive

1 committee and co-chairman of the National Association of  
2 Broadcasters Political Action Committee, a national trustee  
3 for the organization for the past 20 years, and a leading  
4 fundraiser for the organization; he was a member of the  
5 Congressional Relations Committee; he was a board member of the  
6 Library of American Broadcasting, the Associated Press  
7 Broadcast Board, SAGA Communications, and Redlands Water and  
8 Power; he was a member of the board of trustees at Lincoln  
9 Academy of Illinois in Springfield since 1993 and was elected  
10 as Regent by the board in 1998; he was an executive board  
11 member of the Boy Scouts of America for Western Colorado; he  
12 was also chairman of the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and a  
13 board member of the Radio Music License Committee; and

14 WHEREAS, W. Russell Withers, Jr. was the recipient of  
15 numerous awards and honors, including the Mt. Vernon Citizen of  
16 the Year award, the Wally Jorgensen Award, the Broadcasters  
17 Foundation's 2003 American Broadcast Pioneer Award, the  
18 Illinois Broadcasters Association's Broadcaster of the Year  
19 award, the West Virginia Broadcasters Association's  
20 Broadcaster of the Year award, the Heritage Award from the  
21 Jefferson County African American Heritage Committee, the  
22 Southeast Missouri State University Alumni Merit Award, the  
23 Sigma Chi Fraternity Distinguished Significant Sig Award, and  
24 the Honor of Order of Lincoln, Illinois highest honor for  
25 professional accomplishments and public service; he was also

1 listed in the Who's Who in Finance and Industry, Who's Who in  
2 America, Who's Who in Entertainment, and Who's Who in the  
3 World; and

4 WHEREAS, W. Russell Withers, Jr. was preceded in death by  
5 his parents; and

6 WHEREAS, W. Russell Withers, Jr. is survived by his  
7 daughter, Dana R. Withers; his stepson, David Lister; his  
8 stepdaughters, Diana Lister and Celeste Hunt; his sister, Lindi  
9 W. Janes; and his brothers, Richard Kent Withers, James K.  
10 (Pam) Withers, and William J. (Victoria) Withers; therefore, be  
11 it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
14 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of W.  
15 Russell Withers, Jr.; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
17 presented to the family of W. Russell Withers, Jr. as an  
18 expression of our sympathy.