



HR1282

LRB098 22752 MST 61699 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 E. Leslie
4 "Les" Conkling of Kempton, who passed away on September 16,
5 2014; and

6 WHEREAS, Les Conkling was born in Princeton on December 20,
7 1931 to Howard and Elna Mae (nee Sparling) Conkling; he
8 graduated in 1949 from Princeton High School; he received his
9 Associate's Degree from Ogelsby Junior College and his Bachelor
10 Degree in Teacher Education from Northern Illinois University;
11 he did his post-graduate work at Indiana University and
12 Louisiana Tech University and received his Master of Education
13 from the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana; he married
14 Sandra J. Jacobs on June 6, 1956 in Dekalb; and

15 WHEREAS, Les Conkling was a teacher, coach, and principal
16 for the Kempton-Cabery and Tri-Point School district for 30
17 years, retiring in May of 1990; he coached high school football
18 at Kempton-Cabery High School and was the first high school
19 football coach and principal for the newly consolidated
20 Tri-Point High School in 1969; he coached basketball, track,
21 and baseball for Tri-Point Schools; he was also a coach for
22 Kempton-Cabery Little League baseball and led the
23 Kempton-Cabery Colts Summer League Baseball Team to multiple

1 championships; and

2 WHEREAS, Les Conkling was very active with the Republican
3 Party; he was the Ford County Republican Precinct Committeeman
4 of Mona Township from 1974 to 2004 and the Ford County
5 Republican Chairman from 1978 to 1998; he was the Secretary of
6 the Illinois Republican County Chairman's Association from
7 1986 to 1990 and served as an Illinois State Representative
8 from July of 1991 to January of 1993 for the old 87th District;
9 he served his community by being both a member of the Kempton
10 Village Board and Kempton Fire Department for over 30 years;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, After retirement from education, Les Conkling
13 worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation for over 9
14 years, retiring in December of 2002; and

15 WHEREAS, Les Conkling enjoyed skiing, fly fishing, and
16 following his Fighting Illini; he also enjoyed reading,
17 traveling, and was most passionate when working with youth,
18 coaching, and volunteering; and

19 WHEREAS, Les Conkling was preceded in death by his wife,
20 Elna and his parents; and

21 WHEREAS, Les Conkling is survived by his children, Ted

1 (Valerie) and Howard (Mary); his grandchildren, Danielle
2 (Andrew) Donley, Ian Conkling, Brooke (Ben) Carton, Emily
3 Conkling, and Michael Conkling; and his great-grandchildren,
4 Alexis and Wade Donley; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
6 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
7 we mourn the passing of E. Leslie "Les" Conkling, and extend
8 our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who
9 knew and loved him; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Les Conkling as an expression of our
12 deepest sympathy.