



HR0154

LRB099 09180 MST 30896 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 former
4 Kendall County Sheriff Thomas Usry, who passed away on January
5 22, 2015 at the age of 78; and

6 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry was born on July 24, 1936 in
7 Washington, D.C. to Delmar Howard and Cleo Beth (nee Early)
8 Usry; he was raised in Yorkville and later lived in Aurora; he
9 graduated from West Aurora High School in 1954; upon
10 graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army, where he was
11 stationed at Ft. Bragg in North Carolina and proudly served in
12 the 82nd Airborne Division Artillery, 187th Regiment; he
13 married Pauline Alyce Keierleber on May 5, 1956 at Claim Street
14 Baptist Church in Aurora; and

15 WHEREAS, After receiving his discharge from active duty,
16 Thomas Usry served as a Sergeant with the 129th Infantry of the
17 Illinois Army National Guard and began his noteworthy career in
18 law enforcement; he served as Deputy and Chief Deputy of
19 Kendall County and was later elected Sheriff in 1970; he served
20 2 4-year terms, being re-elected in 1974; he continued down the
21 path of law enforcement after leaving the Sheriff's Office,
22 joining the College of DuPage as Chief of Police in 1978 and
23 serving in that capacity for over 2 decades, until his

1 retirement in 2000; and

2 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry graduated from the FBI National
3 Academy in 1973; in 1982, he became the Secretary and Treasurer
4 of the FBI National Academy Illinois Chapter, a position he
5 held until his retirement in 2000; in 1989, he graduated from
6 the Secret Service Dignitary Protection Training Program; and

7 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry was involved in various local and
8 national organizations, including the International
9 Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, the
10 Illinois Police Association, the DuPage County Chiefs of Police
11 Association, the American Society of Industrial Security, and
12 the FBI National Academy Associates of Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry was also a prominent member in various
14 civic organizations, including the John Steele Chapter of the
15 82nd Airborne Division Association, where he served as Chapter
16 President in 1989, the Raven Lodge 303, and the Ancient Free &
17 Accepted Masons in Oswego; he was an active member of the
18 Golden K Kiwanis in Aurora during his retirement, ultimately
19 serving as President of the club; and

20 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry was known for the sincere devotion he
21 reserved not only for his immediate family, but also for his
22 friends; he was an avid aficionado of John Wayne films; he

1 loved to play golf and bowl; he enjoyed rifle and handgun
2 shooting, and was an excellent shot, receiving a perfect score
3 at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia; and

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry was preceded in death by his parents;
5 his son, Phillip Howard Usry; his brother-in-law and
6 sister-in-law, R. William and Verlie Usry; and his
7 brother-in-law, Robert Morehouse; and

8 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry is survived by his wife, Pauline; his
9 son, Tom Usry; his 2 daughters, Paula (Dan) Christiansen and
10 Lisa (Michael) Cope; and his sister-in-law, Ruth (the late
11 Robert) Morehouse; and

12 WHEREAS, Thomas Usry led a life of great virtue,
13 commendation, and esteem; he was beloved and respected by all
14 who knew him and leaves a significant legacy behind for all to
15 strive to emulate; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
17 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
18 mourn the passing of Thomas Usry, and we extend our sincere
19 condolences to his many friends and loved ones; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to the family of Thomas Usry as a symbol of our
2 deepest sympathies and sincere appreciation for his
3 demonstrable service to the residents of Kendall County and the
4 State of Illinois.