



HR0842

LRB099 15101 GRL 39352 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, James Vernon has lived in and served his community of Morton, Illinois since 1968, including his active membership in the Morton Jaycees; and

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WHEREAS, James Vernon honorably served his country as a sergeant in a United States Army intelligence unit in Germany from 1962 to 1966; he met and married Hanna Droell in Frankfurt, Germany in 1966; and

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WHEREAS, James Vernon was employed by Caterpillar, Inc. in Information Technology, retiring in 2002 after 35 years of service; and

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WHEREAS, James Vernon has enjoyed playing and teaching chess to children in Grundy and Lincoln elementary schools in Morton for many years; and

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WHEREAS, James Vernon's military training taught him how to defend himself from a knife attack; and

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WHEREAS, While James Vernon was teaching chess to 16 home-schooled children at the Morton Public Library on October 13, 2015, a 19 year-old man armed with 2 large knives entered the room in the Morton Library occupied by the young chess

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1 players and announced he was there to kill the students; and

2 WHEREAS, James Vernon quietly approached the assailant
3 while the children first hid, then quickly fled the room; he
4 then put his military training to use to fight off and subdue
5 the assailant until police arrived; he sustained serious knife
6 wounds to his left hand, including 2 cut arteries and a severed
7 tendon; and

8 WHEREAS, James Vernon's quick thinking, selflessness, and
9 heroic actions saved the lives of many students and thwarted a
10 potentially heinous tragedy; and

11 WHEREAS, James Vernon was presented with a proclamation by
12 Governor Bruce Rauner designating October 26, 2015 as James
13 Vernon Day in the State of Illinois; and

14 WHEREAS, James Vernon serves as a model of bravery,
15 integrity, and dedication for the people of the State of
16 Illinois; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 honor and thank James Vernon for his act of great bravery in
20 protecting the children at the Morton Public Library on October
21 13, 2015 and wish him the best in the future; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to James Vernon as a symbol of our great respect and
3 esteem.