



HR0913

LRB099 15751 MST 40052 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Representative Raymond Poe was born in Lincoln on March 26, 1944 to a family that was producing food for World War II and raising children for the challenging world that would follow victory in the war; and

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WHEREAS, Although Rep. Poe graduated from DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago in 1963, he has always put Central Illinois and its farm heritage first, returning to Sangamon County to take on the increasingly challenging demands of modern agriculture; and

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WHEREAS, As devoted to agriculture as Rep. Poe was, he has dedicated his life to serving his neighbors; he served as a member and eventually as President of the Williamsville School Board and as President of his local farm bureau and Lincolnland Farm Supply; and

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WHEREAS, On March 15, 1994, the Republican voters of the 99th Representative District chose Rep. Poe to be their candidate as a challenger for a seat in the Illinois House of Representatives; and

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WHEREAS, As a freshman candidate on November 8, 1994, Rep. Poe was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives,

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1 becoming a member of the 99th General Assembly and beginning
2 what would be the first of 11 terms of office as an elected
3 State lawmaker; and

4 WHEREAS, As a member of the House majority and then the
5 minority, Rep. Poe has always worked to bring all sides
6 together so that important issues can be discussed; he served
7 for many years as a member, and eventually as Co-Chairman, of a
8 key General Assembly Joint Committee, the Commission on
9 Government Forecasting and Accountability, reflecting the high
10 and increasing respect granted to him by members of both
11 political parties and both chambers of the Illinois General
12 Assembly; and

13 WHEREAS, Rep. Poe became famous around the Capitol and
14 throughout the State for his barbecue, which in recent years
15 has become a staple of long session days each spring; and

16 WHEREAS, As both a farmer and an expert in agricultural
17 policy, Rep. Poe, upon taking office, was appointed to the
18 House Agriculture and Conservation Committee; he returned to
19 this panel in 2013 in the 99th General Assembly, widely
20 respected by the entire farming and agricultural community for
21 his patient expertise; and

22 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives was brought to both

1 joy and sadness in November of 2015 by the news that one of its
2 most respected members, the 11-term Rep. Poe of Sangamon
3 County, would be moving on as the newly-appointed Director of
4 the Illinois Department of Agriculture; and

5 WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives will
6 miss Rep. Poe as a friend; we will miss the generosity of him
7 and his family; and most of all, we will miss the shining
8 example of moral and physical courage that he has demonstrated
9 to his neighbors, friends, and colleagues over the course of
10 his career and in the years of 2014 and 2015; and

11 WHEREAS, Although we recognize that Rep. Poe is and always
12 will be our friend, we also know that foremost in his heart are
13 the members of his family: his wife, Carol, his children, his
14 grandchildren, and his beloved mother, Sarah, to whom this
15 House earlier this year wished a happy 99th birthday;
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
19 that we commend the Honorable Raymond Poe for his service to
20 the Illinois House of Representatives; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we congratulate Rep. Poe upon his selection
22 as Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture, with the

1 knowledge that Illinois farmers can have no better friend in a
2 challenging time; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we urge Director Poe to visit the Illinois
4 House of Representatives often, to share the priorities of his
5 Department and to share his family recipe for fried chicken;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be presented to
8 the Honorable Raymond Poe and his wife, Carol Poe.