



SR0571

LRB099 12233 MST 35090 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Virgil R. Smith of Woodstock, who passed away on March 22, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Virgil Smith was born in Aurora on June 30, 1924 to George D. and Myrtle E. (nee Ebinger) Smith; he grew up on his parents' dairy farm in Oswego and graduated from East Aurora High School; he served in the United States Navy Air Corps from November of 1943 to September of 1945; he earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell College in 1949 and married Jean Ann Trego in Mt. Vernon, Iowa on September 17, 1949; and

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WHEREAS, Virgil Smith and his wife moved to Woodstock in 1952 when he was hired as McHenry County Farm Bureau manager; he became a stock broker in 1957 and thrived in his work for the next 50 years, building the Woodstock A.G. Edwards & Sons office into one of the most successful offices in the firm's 100-year history and into one of the most respected financial institutions in McHenry County; and

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WHEREAS, Virgil Smith loved Woodstock deeply; for his commitment to making Woodstock a better place, he was honored with the Harold Buschkopf Award and recognized as Woodstock's Man of the Year; he was a champion of the Woodstock Chamber of

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1 Commerce, President of Woodstock Little League during its
2 crucial building years, a member of the 1963-64 All-America
3 City committee, Chairman of the Memorial Hospital Foundation
4 Board, and an active member of First United Methodist Church of
5 Woodstock for 62 years; his passion for Woodstock led to his
6 spearheading efforts to keep the Square vibrant, including
7 refurbishing the Woodstock Theatre, the Woodstock Square Mall,
8 and the Woodstock Exchange Building, which were catalysts in
9 the passage of a referendum establishing a special taxing
10 district to enhance the Square; passage of a Woodstock School
11 District 200 referendum and a fundraising campaign for the
12 Opera House followed; and

13 WHEREAS, Virgil Smith was preceded in death by his wife,
14 Jean; his brother and sister-in-law, J. George and Ann Smith;
15 and his sister and brother-in-law, Elaine Smith Crane and Paul
16 Crane; and

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18 WHEREAS, Virgil Smith is survived by his daughter, Marcia
19 (David) Smith Erwin; his 2 sons, Martin (Betty Hamilton) Smith
20 and Gordon (Karen Wrage) Smith; his 9 grandchildren, Michael
21 (Karen) Erwin, Derek Erwin, Melissa (Kyle) Hamilton-Smith
22 Lukey, Mackenzie (Ben) Erwin Keenan, Melinda Hamilton-Smith,
23 Karsten Hamilton-Smith, Tyler Smith, Katrina Hamilton-Smith,
24 and Grayson Smith; and his 4 great-grandchildren, Brighton
25 Haverland, Carter Erwin, Brooks Keenan and Beckett Keenan;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
3 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
4 Virgil R. Smith, and extend our sincere condolences to his
5 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Virgil Smith as an expression of our
9 deepest sympathy.