



SR2451

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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 Wayne N. "Buck" Meyer of Tuscola, who passed away on October 24, 2016; and

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WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer was born on January 16, 1931 in Tuscola; his parents were Everett W. and Florentine R. Cler Meyer; he married Margaret L. Utterback on August 21, 1954 in Tuscola; and

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WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer graduated from Phinney Grade School in 1945 and was a 1949 graduate of Tuscola Community High School, where he was homecoming king, football MVP, and honorable mention All-State fullback in his senior year; he is the school record holder for the 200-yard low hurdles and his class won conference championships in football, basketball, and track in his senior year; in 2010, he was honored as an inductee into the Tuscola High School Hall of Fame for his contributions to agriculture; in 1953, he graduated from the University of Illinois with high honors and earned a Bachelor of Science in agronomy; he also lettered in wrestling with the 1952-1953 team; and

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WHEREAS, In 1953, Wayne Meyer was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force after four years in

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1 the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) at the
2 University of Illinois; he served active duty from 1954 to 1956
3 as an Air Police security officer at England Air Force Base in
4 Alexandria, Louisiana, earning the rank of First Lieutenant;
5 from 1963 to 1965, he served in the Air Force Reserve Recovery
6 Squad as a security officer in Decatur, earning the rank of
7 Captain; in 1956, he and his wife returned to Douglas County to
8 raise their growing family and farm for 40 years until his
9 retirement in 1996; and

10 WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer was a member of the Douglas County
11 Soil and Water Conservation District for 17 years and served as
12 chairman for nine years; while on the Soil and Water
13 Conservation District, he along with other directors defeated
14 the Scattering Fork PL566 Project and testified twice before a
15 congressional hearing committee in Washington, D.C. against
16 the proposed Lincoln Reservoir on the Embarras River which
17 would have had detrimental effects on drainage in Douglas
18 County; the Reservoir project was finally de-authorized after
19 10 years of battle waged by many farm organizations in the city
20 of Tuscola and Douglas County; in 1977, his family was named
21 the Illinois Conservation Farm Family of the Year; and

22 WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer served on the Douglas County Extension
23 Service; he served on the Douglas County Board for one term; he
24 was a member of Forty Martyrs Catholic Church; he served as

1 commander of Tuscola American Legion Post 27 and the Douglas
2 County Farm Bureau; he served as director of the District 12
3 Illinois Corn Marketing Board for eight years, where he held
4 various offices and attended United States Feed Grain Council
5 conventions; these offices took him to Russia, Hungary, and
6 Austria on goodwill missions to exchange and share ideas for
7 crop production and exportation; he was also handpicked to
8 serve as an agricultural adviser to the late United States
9 Representative, Tom Ewing; and

10 WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer was an agronomist at heart and loved
11 to grow things, especially in the soil of central Illinois; he
12 had a love for animals which seemed to migrate to him
13 naturally; he was a die-hard Tuscola Warrior and Fighting
14 Illini fan and was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs; and

15 WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer was preceded in death by his wife,
16 Margaret; his parents; his brothers, Everett, Jr., Clarence,
17 and Tom Meyer; his sister, Wanda Helm; and his grandson, Andy
18 McGillen; and

19 WHEREAS, Wayne Meyer is survived by his children, Mike
20 (Connie) Meyer, Jean Kahn, Jim Meyer, Anna (Kent) McGillen, Dan
21 (Dena) Meyer, and Jaci Manzella; his grandchildren, Lauren
22 Meyer, Clayton Meyer, Natalie Kahn, Kellie Kahn, Kate Blahnik,
23 Jennifer Meyer, Christina Meyer, Whitney (Brady) Fennel, David

1 Meyer, Philip Meyer, Maria Meyer, and Lidia Manzella; and his
2 great-grandson, Liam Fennel; therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
5 family and friends, mourn the passing of Wayne N. "Buck" Meyer;
6 and be it further

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