



HR0178

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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 U.S. House Minority Leader Bob Michel of Peoria, who passed
5 away on February 17, 2017; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Michel was born in Peoria on March 2, 1923;
7 he attended Peoria High School and served in the United States
8 Army during World War II; he was among the later waves to land
9 in Normandy as part of the D-Day invasion; he also participated
10 in the Battle of the Bulge; he was wounded in action and
11 credited with capturing a German machine gun unit; he was
12 awarded two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart, and four Battle Stars
13 for his service; and

14 WHEREAS, Rep. Michel returned to Peoria and graduated from
15 Bradley University in 1948; he married Corinne Woodruff later
16 that same year; and

17 WHEREAS, Rep. Michel represented the Peoria area in the
18 United States House of Representatives from 1957 through 1995,
19 serving six years as minority whip before becoming the GOP
20 leader in 1981; he served as minority leader for seven terms,
21 longer than anyone in House history; he is credited with
22 shepherding Reagan-era economic policies, from tax reform to

1 Social Security reform; he served under seven presidents and
2 six House speakers; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1973, Rep. Michel was named Chairman of the
4 National Republican Congressional Committee by President
5 Richard Nixon; and

6 WHEREAS, Rep. Michel was presented with the Presidential
7 Citizens Medal in 1989 by President Ronald Reagan; in 1994, he
8 was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill
9 Clinton; and

10 WHEREAS, Numerous places bear Rep. Michel's name,
11 including the downtown bridge between Peoria and East Peoria,
12 the student center at Bradley University, the U.S. Department
13 of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Northwest Peoria, and
14 the suite of rooms used in the Capitol by the House leadership;
15 his papers and archival material from his tenure in Congress
16 are housed at the Dirksen Congressional Research Center in
17 Pekin; and

18 WHEREAS, Rep. Michel was preceded in death by his wife of
19 55 years, Corinne; and

20 WHEREAS, Rep. Michel is survived by his children, Scott,
21 Bruce, Laurie, and Robin; his five grandchildren; and one

1 great-grandchild; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
3 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
4 mourn the passing of former U.S. House Minority Leader Bob
5 Michel, and we extend our sincere condolences to his family,
6 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

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