



HR0888

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former Illinois State Representative Thomas B. "Tom" Berns, who passed away on February 19, 2018 at the age of 72; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Berns was born to Henry E. and Phyllis R. (Berglin) Berns on April 8, 1945 and raised in the Illinois communities of Atlanta and Plano; he married his high school sweetheart Jeannie Galvin on August 28, 1965 in Plano and the two enjoyed 52 years of marriage; together they raised two lovely children, Rebecca and Michael; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Berns graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering and began working as an engineer at Danner and Associates, Inc.; in 1975, he and his colleague and friend, Ed Clancy, formed their own business, Berns, Clancy and Associates; in 1979, the firm incorporated and moved to its current location on Main Street in Urbana; today, Berns, Clancy and Associates Inc. is regarded as one of the premier engineering firms in East Central Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Rep. Berns taught surveying for the University of Illinois as an adjunct instructor and around the State for the

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1 Engineering Extension Service; he also taught many continuing  
2 education classes for the Illinois Professional Land  
3 Surveyor's Association, where he served as president in 1976;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 2000, Rep. Berns was appointed to the Illinois  
6 House of Representatives to fulfill the unexpired term of  
7 former State Rep. Tim Johnson; after completing Rep. Johnson's  
8 term, Rep. Berns was re-elected and served one full term; and

9 WHEREAS, During his time in the Illinois House of  
10 Representatives, Rep. Berns sponsored or cosponsored 64 House  
11 Bills, 20 Senate Bills, and 27 Resolutions; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Rep. Berns received many  
13 awards, including the Young Engineer of the Year award in 1975  
14 from the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, the  
15 Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Professional  
16 Land Surveyors Association in 1990, the Chi Epsilon Civil  
17 Engineering Honor Society and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor  
18 Society Awards from the University of Illinois, the Urbana  
19 Rotary Vocational Achievement Award in 2007, and the  
20 Outstanding Civil Engineer Award from the American Society of  
21 Civil Engineers in 2009; and

22 WHEREAS, Rep. Berns was also a dedicated volunteer and

1 community servant; he was a longtime member of the Urbana  
2 Rotary Club and served as the club's president in 1987-1988; he  
3 served as president of the Urbana Country Club; he was a team  
4 manager and president of the Prairie Little League for four  
5 years; he served on the boards of the Champaign County Chamber  
6 of Commerce and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce; he was on the  
7 board of the Champaign Urbana Schools Foundation from  
8 2005-2011, a member of the Champaign County Bell Tower  
9 Committee, and served on the boards of the Champaign County  
10 Forest Preserve District Foundation and the Urbana Park  
11 District Foundation; he was a member of the board of trustees  
12 of the Champaign Urbana Mass Transit district for 11 years and  
13 served as its chairman for one term; he was on the board of  
14 Clark Lindsey Village in Urbana for 38 years, 35 of those years  
15 as chairman; and

16 WHEREAS, Rep. Berns was a member of St. Patrick's Roman  
17 Catholic Congregation in Urbana for over 50 years; he was a  
18 lifelong Illini sports fan and enjoyed playing golf and tennis,  
19 fly fishing, and spending time with his family and  
20 grandchildren; and

21 WHEREAS, Rep. Berns is survived by his wife, Jeannie; his  
22 daughter, Rebecca Berns; his son, Michael (Kelly) Berns; his  
23 grandchildren, Brenna, Braden, Breccan, and Briley; and his  
24 sister, Mary Ellen Smith; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
2 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3 mourn the passing of former Illinois State Representative  
4 Thomas B. "Tom" Berns, and extend our sincere condolences to  
5 his 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 Rep. Berns as an expression of our  
9 deepest sympathy.