



SR0798

LRB101 15118 MST 64242 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of George Jacob Lewis of Quincy, who passed away on July 14, 2019; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, George Lewis was born in Rushville to Dana Mendel and Gladys Elizabeth Hersman Lewis on August 17, 1930; he was raised working on his family's farm in Hersman, which was named after his great-grandfather Jacob Hersman, and graduated from Brown County High School in Mount Sterling in 1948; in high school, he had many activities and interests, including basketball and working on the school newspaper; he was president of his class and president of the science club; he was a county and state Outstanding 4-H Club member and a delegate to the National 4-H Club Congress; he won 15 local, district, and state IHSA public speaking contests; he was active with Future Farmers of America (FFA), serving as chairman on the state champion FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team; he won the national/regional FFA public speaking contest and placed fourth in the national FFA public speaking finals; he was the president of the local chapter of FFA, as well as the state FFA president; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

WHEREAS, After high school, George Lewis stayed home on the farm and was awarded his American Farmer Degree, an FFA

1 distinction; he was a junior leader of the local 4-H club and
2 was elected as the national president of FFA; as president, he
3 assisted with organizing the FFA of Japan, and he toured the
4 U.S., fulfilling the extensive duties of a national officer; he
5 visited the White House to meet with President Harry Truman;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In 1951, George Lewis was active in The Campaign
8 Among Youth For Support of International Christian University
9 in Japan; he won the North American essay contest and was
10 selected as one of two youth from North America to represent
11 this group on a trip to Japan; he appeared before the emperor
12 of Japan and attended the opening of the new university near
13 Tokyo; he married Joan Garrison on June 19, 1951, and they used
14 the trip to Japan as a honeymoon; and

15 WHEREAS, George Lewis was moderator of the local youth
16 organization, Westminster Fellowship; he was elected moderator
17 of the Presbytery in the state and the national Westminster
18 Fellowship; he was president of the state Interdenominational
19 Christian Youth Organization (ICYO), delegate to the world
20 conference of the ICYO in Toronto, Canada, and executive
21 director of the state ICYO; and

22 WHEREAS, As a student at the University of Illinois, George
23 Lewis was elected to the board of directors of the university

1 YMCA; he graduated with high honors and a Bachelor of Science
2 in Agricultural Science; he was an honor student in the College
3 of Law and was designated as a Fulbright Scholar to conduct
4 legal research and study law for a year at the University of
5 London; he earned a certificate of completion from the
6 Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, and,
7 along with Joan, later co-authored a book detailing their
8 adventure, titled Rolling in the Isles; and

9 WHEREAS, Upon his return from England, George Lewis
10 reported for active duty with the United States Air Force,
11 where he "fought the Battle of Topeka" (as he called it) as a
12 procurement officer; he took night classes at the Washburn
13 University Law School; he was a member of the Kansas Bar
14 Journal Review Board and authored an article in the Kansas Bar
15 Journal on Law and Electronics; after two years, he was
16 honorably discharged as a captain; he earned a J.D. from the
17 College of Law at the University of Illinois; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1958, George Lewis moved his family to Quincy
19 and commenced practicing law, which he did successfully for 57
20 years; he was the senior partner in his law firm, which once
21 had offices in Quincy, Mount Sterling, and Rushville; he served
22 as vice president of the Adams County Bar Association, was a
23 member of the Illinois and American Bar Associations, and
24 served as chairman of the Illinois State Bar Association

1 Committee for Legal Research by Electronics; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1970, George Lewis was elected as a delegate to
3 the Sixth Illinois Constitutional Convention; he served as
4 chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Convention and
5 contributed to the re-writing of the Illinois Constitution; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1980, George ran for Illinois State Senate,
7 falling short against the 48th District incumbent, Mary Lou
8 Kent; many now claim that his loss was Quincy's win, due to the
9 continued contributions he made by remaining a local fixture;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, George Lewis was president of the Adams County
12 Heart Association and a member of the board of directors of the
13 Good Samaritan Home; he was one of five who organized the first
14 workshop and social center for disabled adults in Adams County
15 and served as president of the board of directors; he provided
16 volunteer service as the attorney for Home Ownership Assistance
17 of Quincy, Inc.; and

18 WHEREAS, George Lewis was a member of the Adams County
19 Mental Health Board, the Advisory Council of the Quincy High
20 School Vocational Agricultural Department, the board of
21 directors of the Adams County Family Service Agency, Quincy
22 Noon Optimists, Rotary East, and the board of directors of the

1 Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County; he was a member
2 of the board of directors and on the executive committee of the
3 Great River Economic Development Foundation; and

4 WHEREAS, George Lewis served seven years as a member of
5 Quincy's Equal Opportunity Commission and volunteered in his
6 local mentoring program for fifth- and sixth-graders; and

7 WHEREAS, George Lewis had been a member and elder of the
8 First United Presbyterian Church of Quincy and was most
9 recently a member of the Ellington Presbyterian Church; and

10 WHEREAS, George Lewis enjoyed numerous activities,
11 including bridge clubs, dominoes, photography, gardening,
12 landscaping, antiques, spending time with family and friends,
13 and exploring numerous countries throughout the world's seven
14 continents; he volunteered to help install shallow wells in
15 Malawi, Africa with the Marion Medical Mission; and

16 WHEREAS, George Lewis was preceded in death by his wife of
17 almost 66 years, Joan Garrison Lewis; his parents; his
18 daughter, Ronda Kay Lewis; his brother, John Lewis; his
19 brothers-in-law, John Henderson, Keith Delap, and Dave Ford;
20 and his sister-in-law, Katherine "Kay" Rose Governale Lewis;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, George Lewis is survived by his children, Karen
2 (Stephen) Forte, Sheri (Mike) Jackson, and Gary (Debby Davis)
3 Lewis; his grandchildren, Paul (Jennifer) Forte, Michael
4 (Stephanie Wuerth) Forte, Jesse Jackson, and Mikki Jackson;
5 many step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren; his
6 brothers and sisters, Jean Delap, Ruth Henderson, Dana (Anita)
7 Lewis, Dick (Cheri Lee) Lewis, Charles (Marney) Lewis, Anne
8 Ford, and Mary (Jack) Garland; numerous cousins; and many
9 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
12 George Jacob Lewis and extend our sincere condolences to his
13 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to the family of George Lewis as an expression of our
17 deepest sympathy.