



HR0592

LRB104 16807 MST 30216 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On September 2, 2025, at approximately 7:27pm, a
3 Dodge 2500 pickup truck was traveling east on Rio Township
4 Road 2400 North at a high rate of speed; at the intersection of
5 2400 North and 050 East, the driver lost control, and his truck
6 went into the ditch on the right side of the road; the driver
7 tried to correct, but the truck went back onto the road and
8 into the ditch on the left side of the road, turned over
9 several times, and destroyed a row of pine trees, coming to
10 rest on the passenger side; and

11 WHEREAS, A farmhouse sits at the intersection and is owned
12 by resident Connie Flack, who was sitting on the front porch
13 and witnessed the entire incident; she immediately called her
14 neighbors, Ken and Rhonda McCracken, who live approximately a
15 half mile up the road; they instantly got in their car and
16 drove to the accident as Rhonda called 911; and

17 WHEREAS, Upon arriving, Ken McCracken found the driver,
18 who was the only occupant of the truck, still hanging from his
19 seat belt with the vehicle beginning to smoke; the driver
20 finally got himself released but was unable to get out of the
21 truck by kicking the windshield; Ken noticed a metal rod that
22 had flown out of the back of the truck and began trying to
23 break little holes in the windshield with the rod; he made a

1 number of holes that formed a circle in the windshield, and the
2 driver was able to kick the windshield and create a hole large
3 enough that Ken could pull the driver out and drag him to
4 safety; the driver was unable to walk; just as the two were a
5 few hundred feet from the truck, the gas tank exploded, flames
6 shot into the air, and the entire cab of the truck was engulfed
7 in flames; Rhonda McCracken and Connie Flack got towels, and
8 they assisted Ken with first aid to the victim who had suffered
9 numerous cuts; and

10 WHEREAS, The first EMT's on the scene were Kevin Devlin
11 and Sid Carlson, who found the patient lying on the ground
12 being attended by Ken, Rhonda, and Connie; loud bangs began
13 coming from the burning truck as the driver noted that he was
14 carrying ammunition; a Knox County deputy arrived as well as
15 Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan and then Tri-County Ambulance
16 and the Rio Fire Department; the driver was placed on a cot,
17 loaded into the ambulance, and transported to OSF St. Mary
18 Medical Center in Galesburg for treatment; and

19 WHEREAS, Had it not been for Ken McCracken, the driver
20 would have perished in the fire; of note, Ken is 81 years old
21 and has been the Rio Township Road Commissioner for 46 years;
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE

1 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we commend Ken McCracken for his heroic actions resulting in
3 saving a man's life; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we commend Connie Flack, Rhonda McCracken,
5 Kevin Devlin, Sid Carlson, and Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan
6 for their contributions to saving a man's life; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
9 presented to Ken and Rhonda McCracken, Connie Flack, Kevin
10 Devlin, Sid Carlson, and Knox County Sheriff Jack Harlan as an
11 expression of our respect and esteem for their swift and
12 decisive actions resulting in a man's life being saved.