



HR0729

LRB104 21163 LAW 35545 r

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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 John  
4 Alden Smith Jr., who passed away on March 4, 2026; and

5           WHEREAS, John Smith was born in Indianapolis, Indiana on  
6 January 3, 1944; he served in the United States Army from  
7 September 27, 1963 to September 26, 1966, attaining the rank  
8 of specialist four and serving as a field radio repairman; for  
9 his honorable service, he received the Good Conduct Medal, the  
10 National Defense Service Medal, the Marksman Marksmanship  
11 Qualification Badge with Carbine Bar, and the Sharpshooter  
12 Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar, reflecting  
13 the discipline, skill, and sense of duty that remained evident  
14 throughout his life; and

15           WHEREAS, After his military service, John Smith dedicated  
16 37 years to the telecommunications industry through Western  
17 Electric, Illinois Bell, and Lucent Technologies, contributing  
18 to the communications infrastructure that helped support the  
19 growth of modern technology and keeping faith with the value  
20 of hard work throughout his long career; and

21           WHEREAS, John Smith was a man of deep faith who lived a  
22 life of service through his church and community, sharing

1 fellowship through the Lillydale First Baptist Church Choir,  
2 serving through New Progressive Missionary Baptist Church,  
3 assisting others through the food pantry, volunteering with  
4 the Village of Hazel Crest Veterans Commission, and remaining  
5 active with VFW Post 311; and

6 WHEREAS, John Smith was fiercely loyal and unquestionably  
7 reliable, a man whose word could be trusted, whose presence  
8 could be counted on, and whose devotion to those he loved never  
9 had to be questioned; he showed his family, his neighbors, and  
10 all who knew him that character is built by steady action,  
11 faithful service, and the daily discipline of doing the right  
12 thing over and over again; and

13 WHEREAS, John Smith served as a father figure to many  
14 throughout his neighborhood and community, taking people under  
15 his wing, feeding them, advising them, correcting them, and  
16 helping prepare them for the future because he cared deeply  
17 about what they would become and possessed a sincere desire to  
18 see them live better, stronger, more disciplined lives; and

19 WHEREAS, John Smith never met a stranger, and he spoke to  
20 people others might ignore, welcomed those others might  
21 overlook, and made room for people who needed family,  
22 friendship, direction, or simply to be seen, reminding all who  
23 encountered him that dignity belongs to everyone; and

1           WHEREAS, John Smith was affectionately known as "Mr. Smith  
2           John" to many, a title that reflected not only familiarity,  
3           but deep respect, love, and gratitude for the role he played in  
4           the lives of so many; he was a truly extraordinary man who  
5           leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, service, and  
6           steadfast devotion to his faith, family, and community; and

7           WHEREAS, John Smith was the devoted husband of Marva for  
8           over 61 years; the proud father of Lorie Wilson, Carla  
9           (William) Gamble, Matthew Smith, and the late Danita Smith;  
10          the loving grandfather of Cameron Lee, Lauren Wilson, Peyton  
11          Gamble, Quentin Gamble, Kellen Gamble, Alden Smith, and  
12          Alexander Smith; the proud great-grandfather of Camoni Lee; an  
13          honorable veteran; a devoted servant of his faith; and a  
14          beloved patriarch whose life enriched and strengthened all who  
15          knew him; therefore, be it

16          RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
17          HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
18          we mourn the passing of John Alden Smith Jr. and extend our  
19          sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew  
20          and loved him; and be it further

21          RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
22          presented to the family of John Smith as an expression of our

1 deepest sympathy.