



SR0269

LRB104 13223 LAW 25390 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate wish to
3 congratulate Edgar J. "Ed" Curtis on the occasion of his
4 retirement as president and chief executive officer of
5 Memorial Health on March 31, 2025; and

6 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis, a Springfield native, was the first
7 person in his working-class family to attend college; he
8 pursued a career in nursing in 1970 at a time when 3% of the
9 nation's nurses were male, earning a Bachelor of Science in
10 Nursing from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; and

11 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis began working as a registered nurse on
12 a medical/surgical floor at Memorial Hospital in Springfield
13 in 1975; after 15 years, his career led him to holding a series
14 of management jobs and earning a Master of Business
15 Administration from the University of Illinois
16 Urbana-Champaign; he was named senior vice president and chief
17 operating officer of Memorial Health in 1993, and he became
18 president and CEO of Memorial Health in 2008; and

19 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis, as president and CEO of Memorial
20 Health, was responsible for the five-hospital health system
21 and the City of Springfield's largest private employer for the
22 past 17 years; while at the helm, he was responsible for

1 approximately 7,200 employees and a \$1.6 billion-a-year
2 organization, consisting of Memorial's hospitals and other
3 sites in Springfield, Decatur, Jacksonville, Taylorville, and
4 Lincoln; and

5 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis' tenure was characterized by growth and
6 ongoing partnerships with other entities in the local health
7 care industry, including HSHS St. John's Hospital, Southern
8 Illinois University School of Medicine, and Springfield
9 Clinic, leading Memorial Health to become known for providing
10 high-quality care to its patients; he tackled workforce and
11 financial challenges at Memorial before, during, and after the
12 COVID-19 pandemic; he supervised academic partnerships with
13 Memorial to expand local nursing education programs with a
14 number of institutions, including Lincoln Land Community
15 College, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State
16 University, Richland Community College, Illinois College, the
17 University of Illinois Springfield, and the University of
18 Illinois Chicago College of Nursing; he presided over
19 Springfield Memorial and Jacksonville Memorial Hospitals as
20 both achieved and maintained "magnet status" from the American
21 Nurses Credentialing Center, a prestigious designation that
22 recognizes a work culture that supports nurses and the nursing
23 profession, and he played an integral role in growing and
24 supporting the next generation of physicians in central
25 Illinois; and

1 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis led Memorial Health with a level head,
2 care, and compassion, epitomizing servant leadership and
3 serving as a mentor to others pursuing careers in health care
4 while making a profound impact on the hospital community,
5 health care education, and the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis has served on the boards of the
7 Springfield Urban League, the United Way of Central Illinois,
8 the Central Illinois Foodbank, and the Illinois Health and
9 Hospital Association (IHA), which he chaired in 2017; he
10 currently chairs the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance,
11 which promotes economic development in the Mid-Illinois
12 Medical District and other parts of the community; and

13 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis has received several accolades during
14 his career, including being honored by Springfield Mayor Misty
15 Buscher and the Springfield City Council when they proclaimed
16 March 18, 2025 as Edgar J. Curtis Day; and

17 WHEREAS, Ed Curtis and his wife, Sharon, reside in
18 Springfield, and they have two adult children and five
19 grandchildren, all of whom live in the Springfield area; his
20 surviving parent, his mother, also resides in Springfield;
21 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we congratulate Edgar
3 J. "Ed" Curtis on his retirement as president and chief
4 executive officer of Memorial Health, and we thank him for his
5 dedication and service to the patients and staff of Memorial
6 Health for the past 50 years; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to Ed Curtis as an expression of our esteem and
9 respect.