



SR0460

LRB104 15572 ECR 28738 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2        WHEREAS, It is highly fitting that the members of the  
3        Illinois Senate recognize the accomplishments and  
4        contributions made by exceptional officials and citizens of  
5        the State of Illinois; and

6        WHEREAS, Former Governor Jim Edgar was raised in  
7        Charleston and attended Eastern Illinois University, where his  
8        leadership was evident early on through his role as student  
9        body president; and

10       WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was first elected to public office in  
11       1977; he devoted himself fully to public service, serving with  
12       distinction as State Representative of the 53rd District,  
13       Illinois Secretary of State, and ultimately as the 38th  
14       Governor of Illinois, where he guided the State through some  
15       of its most challenging times with steady resolve and an  
16       unwavering commitment to the public good; and

17       WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar, during his two terms as governor,  
18       steered Illinois through a budget deficit with courage and  
19       foresight, ensuring that essential services were preserved  
20       while restoring public confidence in government; and

21       WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar was a tireless advocate for education,

1 championing reforms that improved school funding and ensuring  
2 that every child in Illinois had access to quality learning  
3 opportunities, leaving behind a legacy of stronger, fairer  
4 educational foundations for generations to come; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Gov. Edgar embodied the  
6 rare spirit of true statesmanship, bridging political divides,  
7 fostering bipartisanship, and demonstrating that respect and  
8 cooperation among lawmakers were essential to building a  
9 better future; and

10 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar's influence extended beyond public  
11 office, being named a distinguished fellow at the University  
12 of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, a fellow of the National Academy  
13 of Public Administration, and a resident fellow at Harvard  
14 University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he  
15 continued to shape young minds and inspire future leaders; and

16 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar served as chairman of the Abraham  
17 Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and as a Laureate of  
18 the Lincoln Academy of Illinois, carrying forward the legacy  
19 of Illinois' most revered leader, Abraham Lincoln, and  
20 exemplifying honesty, fairness, and a devotion to the common  
21 good; and

22 WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar also created the Edgar Fellows

1       Program, investing deeply in the next generation of civic  
2       leaders by teaching that effective governance requires mutual  
3       understanding, respect for differing views, and a commitment  
4       to the greater good; and

5           WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar's leadership, integrity, and humility  
6       earned him the respect and admiration of citizens across  
7       Illinois as well as the nation, and his dedication was  
8       recognized with the Order of Lincoln, the State of Illinois'  
9       highest honor; and

10          WHEREAS, Gov. Edgar will be remembered beyond his titles  
11       and accolades as a man of character and compassion whose  
12       steady hand and servant's heart left an indelible mark on the  
13       history and people of Illinois; therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
15       ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare September  
16       14, 2026 as Governor Jim Edgar Day in the State of Illinois in  
17       recognition of former Governor Jim Edgar's life, his legacy,  
18       and his extraordinary career in public service; and be it  
19       further

20           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21       presented to the family of Gov. Edgar as an expression of our  
22       esteem and respect.