



SR0548

LRB104 16901 MST 30312 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Hal I. Smith of Springfield, who passed away on December 3, 2025; and

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WHEREAS, Hal Smith was born in Springfield to William H. and Betty Rose (Davis) Smith on November 22, 1950; he graduated from Springfield High School in 1968 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business from Sangamon State University in 1972 and a Master of Arts in Public Administration in 1976; and

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WHEREAS, Hal Smith's career began with a vital role on the U.S. Senate staff for Senator Charles H. Percy; afterward, he committed over 30 years in the private sector to three global gaming and entertainment companies; when the Lincoln National Heritage Area was created and funded in 2008, he served as the executive director of the Looking for Lincoln Heritage Coalition; though he attempted retirement in 2017, his expertise and passion for serving others drew him back to the work force where he offered his time and skills to Lincoln College and then to the office of Congressman Darin LaHood; he became the executive director for development at the SIU Foundation at the School of Medicine in 2019, before retiring fully in 2024; and

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1 WHEREAS, Hal Smith was an avid fan of the St. Louis
2 Cardinals, and it was a rare day not to find him in St. Louis
3 Cardinals clothing; he was thrilled with his son's employment
4 and association with the team for over 25 years; and

5 WHEREAS, Hal Smith's spirited pursuit of knowledge led him
6 to travel six continents, eagerly exploring and appreciating
7 diverse cultures; his love for his family was paramount, and
8 one of his greatest joys in life was watching his daughter,
9 Elizabeth, take the stage from high school, college, and
10 beyond; and

11 WHEREAS, Hal Smith was a devoted member of Blessed
12 Sacrament Church and remained a steadfast member of the
13 Springfield community throughout his life; he will be
14 especially remembered as a great communicator who made a
15 tremendous impact; and

16 WHEREAS, Hal Smith was preceded in death by his parents
17 and his sister, Sharon Rose Anne Johnson; and

18 WHEREAS, Hal Smith is survived by his wife of 42 years, Meg
19 (Moore); his children, Elizabeth (Nicholas) Lucin and David
20 (Rebecca) Reid; his grandchildren, Madison and Caden; his
21 "brother", Richard Gajate Garcia; his brother-in-law, Van E.
22 Johnson; his nieces, Carla (Dan) Fitzgerald and Nancy (Brian)

1 Letofsky; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces,
2 great-nephews, and cousins; his friends, Thomas J. O'Brien and
3 Larry Bailey; and his "little brother" through the Big
4 Brothers program, Hank Hibbs; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 Hal I. Smith and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
8 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to the family of Hal Smith as an expression of our
11 deepest sympathy.