



SR0553

LRB104 17299 ECR 30721 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2        WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened  
3 to learn of the death of John Mark Smith of Springfield, who  
4 passed away on December 15, 2025; and

5        WHEREAS, John Smith, the son of Frank Irvin Smith and  
6 Emelia (Marker) Smith in Springfield on September 28, 1934; he  
7 graduated from Feitshans High School; he served in the United  
8 States Army in Germany following the Korean War; he received a  
9 degree in law enforcement from Springfield College, and he  
10 later graduated from the University of Illinois Springfield in  
11 1977; he married Florence E. Nizzio on November 6, 1954; after  
12 her passing, he married Mary A. Sponsler on December 31, 1991;  
13 and

14       WHEREAS, John Smith began working as a patrolman for the  
15 Springfield Police Department in 1957; he ascended the ranks  
16 to sergeant, detective, and watch commander before concluding  
17 his 31-year career in 1989; he then worked at the Illinois  
18 Department of Revenue, retiring after 15 years of service; and

19       WHEREAS, John Smith was a longtime member of Concordia  
20 Lutheran Church; he was also involved with the Illinois Police  
21 Association and the Illinois Police Benevolent and Protective  
22 Association, and he was a lifetime member of the National

1       Rifle Association (NRA); and

2           WHEREAS, John Smith loved traveling to the mountains with  
3       his family for camping adventures and basking in the Florida  
4       sunshine, where he pursued his passion for fishing; and

5           WHEREAS, John Smith lived a life marked by a mixture of  
6       grit and selflessness, with a relentless courage that was  
7       admired by all; his enduring spirit will remain a guiding  
8       light to his family, friends, and all the lives he touched; and

9           WHEREAS, John Smith was preceded in death by his parents;  
10       his first wife, Florence E. (Nizzio) Smith; his second wife,  
11       Mary A. (Sponsler) Smith; his granddaughter, Heather Shepherd;  
12       and his siblings, Clara Lou Bennett and Irvin F. "Irv" Smith;  
13       and

14           WHEREAS, John Smith is survived by his children, Kathryn  
15       L. (Tony) Spain and Mark A. (Kathy) Smith; four grandchildren;  
16       six great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a  
17       host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
19       ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
20       John Mark Smith and extend our sincere condolences to his  
21       family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of John Smith as an expression of our  
4 deepest sympathy.