



SR0631

LRB104 20883 RMO 34551 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 Franklin Leon "Lee" Rodgers of Goreville, who passed away on February 6, 2026; and

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WHEREAS, Lee Rodgers was born to Thomas Ezra "Bill" and Dimple Inez (Cash) Rodgers in Marion on November 29, 1937; he spent four years in Goreville before his family moved to Kankakee, where he graduated from Kankakee Senior High in 1955; he earned his bachelor's degree in business education from Illinois State University in Normal in May 1959; he married Judith Ann "Judy" Naeve on August 15, 1959; he received his master's degree in school administration from Illinois State University in August 1963 and an advanced degree in school administration from the University of Illinois in 1970; and

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WHEREAS, Lee Rodgers began his career in education as a teacher, a coach, and an administrator in Le Roy from 1959 to 1963; he enjoyed a 31-year career as superintendent of schools, serving Neponset from 1963 to 1964, Princeton from 1964 to 1967, Potomac from 1967 to 1972, Delavan from 1972 to 1983, and Mahomet-Seymour from 1983 to 1994; he received numerous honors during his education career, but he most treasured serving as president of the Illinois Association of

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1 School Administrators from 1978 to 1979; and

2 WHEREAS, Following his retirement in 1994, Lee Rodgers
3 worked as a financial sales advisor for Honeywell Corporation
4 for five years; he continued to serve in various interim
5 educational positions, including superintendent of the Manteno
6 Community Unit School District (CUSD) 5, director of the
7 Champaign County Special Education Cooperative, and several
8 years as financial administrator for the Illinois State Board
9 of Education Financial Oversight Committee at Cairo CUSD 1; he
10 and Judy retired to their family farm, Hallelujah Acres, in
11 2001, and he returned to coaching in the early 2000s, serving
12 as volunteer coach of the Goreville High School freshman
13 basketball team for five years; and

14 WHEREAS, Lee Rodgers enjoyed spending time with his wife,
15 their children, and their grandchildren; he was an avid sports
16 fan, and his favorite teams were the St. Louis Cardinals,
17 University of Illinois Fighting Illini, and Goreville
18 Blackcats; and

19 WHEREAS, Lee Rodgers was preceded in death by his wife;
20 his parents; and his infant son, Timothy Lee Rodgers; and

21 WHEREAS, Lee Rodgers is survived by his children, Jeffrey
22 (Ed Kruger) Rodgers, Kent (Lisa) Rodgers, Leanne (Brian)

1 Barnhart, and Melody (Phil) Plisky; 12 grandchildren; three
2 great-grandchildren; and his dear companion, Mary Lou Gander;
3 therefore, be it

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

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