



SR0711

LRB104 21319 ECR 36145 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Blake Eugene Roderick, who passed away on March 27, 2026; and

3

4

5

WHEREAS, Blake Roderick was born to Donald Eugene and Alice Joanne (Spring) Roderick in Gibson City on January 20, 1957; he graduated from Lanphier High School in 1975, where he served as student body president; he received a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University; he was also a graduate of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation program, and he was honored to be a Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow; he married Betsy J. Cramsey in 2009; and

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, Blake Roderick began his career with the Sangamon County Farm Bureau in 1981; he became the manager of the Pike County Farm Bureau in December 1981 and assumed joint management of the Scott County Farm Bureau in 1987, successfully shepherding the merger of the two organizations in 2018; he was also instrumental in creation of the Two Rivers Farm Bureau Foundation in 1994; he retired as executive director of the Pike-Scott Farm Bureau in 2022; during his tenure, the organizations he was a part of won many Liberty Bell awards as well as top membership honors and program

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

1 awards at the state and national levels over many years; and

2 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick served as chairman of the Board of
3 Illini Community Health Care System, Illini Community
4 Hospital, and IHS Pharmacy; he served as vice-chairman of
5 Blessing Care Corporation, treasurer of the Illinois Council
6 for Food and Agriculture Research, director of the Illini
7 Community Health Care Foundation, vice-chairman of the
8 Community Foundation of Western Illinois and Northeast
9 Missouri Pittsfield, and commissioner of the Mid-America Port
10 Commission, where also he served as chairman from 2023 to
11 2025; he served on the boards of the Mid-America Intermodal
12 Authority Port District (Mid-America's Port), the Illinois
13 Presbyterian Home, and the U.S. Selective Service System, and
14 he held leadership roles in the Illinois 25x25 Coalition, the
15 Pittsfield Public Library, the Pittsfield Theatre Guild, and
16 other civic and community groups; and

17 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick was raised to the sublime degree
18 of Master Mason in 1995; he served as Worshipful Master of
19 Pittsfield Lodge #790 A.F. & A.M., the current District Deputy
20 Grand Master for the 13th Western District of the Grand Lodge
21 of the State of Illinois, a 32° Scottish Rite Mason in the
22 Valley of Quincy, an Ansar Shriner, and past president of the
23 Pike County Shrine Club; he was also a member of Carlock Lodge
24 #904 in Mechanicsburg; and

1 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick was baptized in and was a member
2 of the Third Presbyterian Church in Springfield; and

3 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick loved traveling with his wife,
4 visiting all 50 states, many state capitol buildings, five
5 continents, and many countries; he was an avid book collector,
6 focusing on Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln, history, and
7 classic spy and detective authors; he was also captivated by
8 nature and the space program; and

9 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick loved his wife and his family, and
10 he was proud of their accomplishments; and

11 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick was preceded in death by his
12 parents; his brother, the Very Reverend Dr. Keith Richard
13 Roderick; his step-son, Donald W. McKee; his bonus sister,
14 Elizabeth Hanson; his father-in-law, Ralph Cummings; his
15 brother-in-law, Kevin Cummings; his grandparents; his uncles;
16 several aunts and cousins; and many friends; and

17 WHEREAS, Blake Roderick is survived by his wife, Betsy;
18 his children, LTC Evan (Natasha) Roderick, Jacob (Bridget)
19 Cramsey, Joshua (Olivia) Cramsey, and Rachel (Isaac) Viar; his
20 step-son, John McKee; six grandchildren; one step-grandson and
21 one step-granddaughter; his sister, Pamela S. (Austin)

1 Roderick; his sisters-in-law, Mary Beth Roderick, Tawny
2 (Roger) Benz, Pam (Paul) Frankenbach, and Ellen (Rob) Traman;
3 his step-mother, Patricia Roderick; his mother-in-law, Mary
4 Cummings; his bonus sister, Catherine (Kyle) Alexander; his
5 aunts, Sharyl Stevens and Nada King; and several nephews,
6 nieces, cousins, and friends; therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
8 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
9 Blake Eugene Roderick and extend our sincere condolences to
10 his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
13 presented to the family of Blake Roderick as an expression of
14 our deepest sympathy.