



SR0832

LRB104 22264 MST 38640 r

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Senator Dale Fowler has represented the citizens
3 of the 59th Senate District with distinction since 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has had an extraordinary and
5 remarkable career, leaving a lasting legacy in the General
6 Assembly and across the communities of Southern Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, Before joining the ranks of Senate Republican
8 lawmakers, Senator Fowler first answered the call to public
9 service close to home, serving on the Saline County Board, as a
10 Harrisburg City Commissioner, and then as Mayor of Harrisburg;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler brought to the Senate a rare
13 breadth of life experience, having previously worked in State
14 government under then-Secretary of State Jim Edgar and
15 retiring after a long career with the Illinois Department of
16 Juvenile Justice; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has served the Senate Republican
18 Caucus with distinction as Assistant Republican Leader,
19 helping shape caucus priorities and ensuring that the voice of
20 downstate Illinois was heard; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has served as Minority
2 Spokesperson on the Senate Higher Education, Education, and
3 Commerce Committees and as Republican Spokesperson on the
4 Special Committee on Tourism, where he became one of the
5 Senate's most effective champions of regional economic
6 development; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has been a constant advocate for
8 the growth, development, and prosperity of Southern Illinois,
9 with a legislative record centered on jobs, tourism,
10 agriculture, and the quality of life of the people he
11 represents; and

12 WHEREAS, There is no greater advocate for Southern
13 Illinois than Senator Fowler, who has never met a colleague, a
14 visitor, or a stranger he could not talk into making the trip
15 down to see the rolling hills, the Shawnee Forest, the
16 wineries, and the small-town charm of the region for
17 themselves; and

18 WHEREAS, Through his Southern Illinois Treasures
19 initiative, Senator Fowler has shined a spotlight on the
20 hidden gems of the region, from state parks and historic sites
21 to local festivals and family-owned businesses, helping
22 visitors and lifelong residents alike discover what makes
23 Southern Illinois one of the best-kept secrets in the State;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Among his most lasting economic contributions,
3 Senator Fowler helped bring Walker's Bluff Casino Resort to
4 Southern Illinois and was instrumental in advancing the
5 State's first-ever STAR bond project, which paved the way for
6 the Oasis Powersports and Family Entertainment Center in
7 Marion; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler created the Southern Illinois Made
9 Expo to spotlight the region's manufacturers, workforce, and
10 innovation, an event that has raised more than \$500,000 for
11 local veterans' organizations and has become a signature event
12 in Southern Illinois; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has invested in the next
14 generation of Southern Illinois leaders through his student
15 advisory councils, giving dozens of high school students from
16 across the district over the years a firsthand look at state
17 government, the legislative process, and the work of
18 representing a community well; and

19 WHEREAS, When a 2022 request from an eleven-year-old
20 constituent landed on his desk, Senator Fowler carried the
21 bill that made the Eastern Milk Snake the Official State Snake
22 of Illinois, a reminder that no constituent is too young, and

1 no idea too small, to find a friend in the 59th District
2 office; and

3 WHEREAS, Bringing jobs and economic opportunity to
4 Southern Illinois was at the heart of everything Senator
5 Fowler did in the Senate; whether it was a new business opening
6 its doors, a tourism project taking shape, or a phone call to
7 fight for more opportunities in his district, the goal was
8 always the same, a stronger future for the region he calls
9 home; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler kept a longstanding promise made
11 when he first sought office, to serve no more than ten years
12 and to opt out of a legislative pension; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler's service has always extended well
14 beyond the Capitol, including through the Fowler-Bonan
15 Foundation he founded and chairs and through community-based
16 efforts that have clothed children and fed neighbors across
17 Southern Illinois for more than two decades; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler is admired by his colleagues for
19 his decency, his willingness to listen, and the warm personal
20 regard he extends to every member of the Senate and its staff;
21 and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has worked across the aisle and
2 across administrations, partnering with governors of both
3 parties to deliver real wins for Southern Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler is the proud husband of his wife,
5 Jill, the proud father of his two children, Hannah and Ben, and
6 the proud grandfather to his grandson, Whit, whose love and
7 support have sustained him through every chapter of his public
8 service; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler will be missed by the colleagues
10 and staff who have worked alongside him; he will fondly be
11 known as the guy who always has time to talk, always remembers
12 your kids' names, and always has your back; and

13 WHEREAS, With his retirement, Senator Fowler leaves this
14 office with a full heart and the lasting gratitude of the
15 region he has spent a lifetime serving; and

16 WHEREAS, Senator Fowler has been a shining example of what
17 it means to be a good leader, a loyal friend, and a dedicated
18 public servant; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Senator Dale
21 Fowler for his many years of dedicated service to the people of

1 Southern Illinois and the State of Illinois and honor him with
2 this resolution; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to Senator Fowler with our best wishes for all his
5 future endeavors.