



HR0469

LRB101 12890 MST 61725 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Donald E. "Don" Fike on his 50th year in the profession of long-term care and community services; and

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WHEREAS, Don Fike was born in 1947 and raised in Illinois; he received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and his master's degree in health care administration from DePaul University; and

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WHEREAS, In 1969, Don Fike applied for a job with a community human services agency that provided sheltered workshop opportunities for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities; and

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WHEREAS, Next door was a nursing home with individuals who had intellectual/developmental disabilities; Don Fike recognized the difference in caring for the elderly and caring for those with intellectual/developmental disabilities and was determined to create a continuum of care that would provide, in a protected residential setting, coordination and integration of health and habilitative services to help each individual function at their greatest ability; and

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1 WHEREAS, Don Fike took this vision and created Horizon
2 House of Illinois Valley; Horizon House was one of the first in
3 the State to be licensed as a community-based ICF/DD, providing
4 services for those with intellectual/developmental
5 disabilities covered by Medicaid; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1979, Don Fike started his own company in order
7 to share his expertise and consult with human service
8 providers; and

9 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1981, Don Fike began constructing and
10 operating skilled nursing facilities throughout Illinois in
11 order to offer long-term services; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1983, Don Fike was asked to assume control of
13 the State's large developmental disability facilities in order
14 to save the facilities from closure; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1985, Don Fike was the first to develop 15 bed
16 community-based ICF/DDs to better serve individuals with
17 intellectual/developmental disabilities; in his career, he has
18 established over 175 facilities across the State, which have
19 enriched the lives of tens of thousands of individuals; and

20 WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Don Fike was also one of the
21 first to develop community integrated living arrangements that

1 offered homelike supervised living for adults with
2 intellectual/developmental disabilities; with no more than
3 eight individuals residing in each home, over 60 CILA's were
4 created, which have served thousands of individuals across the
5 State; and

6 WHEREAS, While Don Fike continued to provide care to
7 seniors in skilled nursing facilities, he envisioned another
8 level of care that was not currently being offered, serving
9 seniors who rely on help with daily care but did not require as
10 much help as those who lived in skilled nursing facilities; he
11 was instrumental in envisioning and driving the efforts to
12 create assisted living licensure and rules for the program,
13 which has blossomed into over 650 assisted living and
14 supportive living communities across the State; and

15 WHEREAS, Don Fike is recognized as one of the visionary
16 founders and leaders in moving individuals with
17 intellectual/developmental disabilities out of State-operated
18 developmental centers and creating smaller, home-like,
19 quality, community-based residential homes and services
20 throughout Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, Don Fike has been one of the visionary leaders in
22 developing and providing quality, compassionate care and
23 services to seniors in skilled nursing, assisted living,

1 supportive living, and independent senior homes and
2 apartments; he now operates a number of long-term care models
3 in Illinois, Florida, Iowa, and Nevada; in his career, he has
4 created over 50 facilities and programs, which have served
5 hundreds of thousands of individuals; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
7 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we congratulate Donald E. Fike on 50 years of serving the needs
9 of individuals who need specialized care; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to Don Fike as an expression of our esteem and
12 respect.