



HR0229

LRB102 18143 MST 25513 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of former
4 Illinois Congressman Robert T. "Bobby" Schilling, who passed
5 away on April 6, 2021 surrounded by his wife, Christie, and his
6 10 children and 14 grandchildren; and

7 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling was born on January 23, 1964, the
8 fourth of five children born to Francis and Patricia (Kilgore)
9 Schilling; he was raised on the west end of Rock Island; and

10 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling graduated from Alleman High
11 School, where he played football and was named homecoming
12 king; and

13 WHEREAS, Coming from a poor neighborhood and never
14 attaining a college degree, Bobby Schilling never let hurdles
15 of any size stand in his way; he worked at MacMillan Bloedel
16 Container Corporation of America, where he served as a union
17 steward in the International Paperworkers Union; he become an
18 insurance agent and financial planner for Prudential
19 Insurance, where he ranked 525 out of 10,000 agents and served
20 as the treasurer of his local United Food and Commercial
21 Workers Union; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1996, Bobby Schilling became an entrepreneur
2 and started St. Giuseppe's Heavenly Pizza with his family; 25
3 years later, the family is preparing to open their fourth
4 location; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2009, Bobby Schilling decided to make a bid
6 for U.S. Congress in Illinois' 17th District, which had been
7 held by Democrats for nearly 30 years; despite the long-shot
8 odds, he was successful in his campaign, defeating incumbent
9 Congressman Phil Hare by more than 10 points; and

10 WHEREAS, As a member of the U.S. Congress, Bobby Schilling
11 was willing to work across the aisle to meet the needs of his
12 district; he prioritized the rebuilding of the I-74 bridge,
13 worked with Democratic colleagues to secure key provisions to
14 help the Rock Island Arsenal in the National Defense
15 Authorization Act, and prioritized veterans by introducing
16 legislation that expanded their health care access by allowing
17 them to get care from any hospital in America and not just from
18 the VA clinics; more than anything, he loved the pre-born; he
19 believed that every life has the potential to change the
20 world, and he supported every piece of pro-life legislation he
21 could; and

22 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling was deeply committed to his
23 Catholic faith; throughout his battle with cancer, he remained

1 grateful for the life he was given; and

2 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling loved his family and dedicated
3 his life to them; he was not concerned about a successful
4 career as much as he was about providing for his large and
5 growing family; he showed love for his family through his work
6 and sacrifice; he enjoyed addressing challenges and proving
7 his doubters wrong; and

8 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling loved America, a nation where a
9 poor kid from Rock Island could have a successful marriage of
10 35 years and 10 children, own several restaurants, build two
11 houses, and serve as a member of Congress; and

12 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling was preceded in death by his
13 parents; and

14 WHEREAS, Bobby Schilling is survived by his wife,
15 Christie; his children, Terry (Katie), Aaron (Kiki), Levi
16 (Amanda), Joe (Ashley), Isabel (Austin Ryan), Rachel (Kidd
17 Causemaker), Olivia, Sam, Sophia, and Tony; his grandchildren,
18 Grace, Reagan, Bobby, Max, Peter, Gianna, TJ, Daniel, Evelyn,
19 Julia, Hank, Edward, Gus, Ruth, and three on the way; and his
20 siblings, Richard, Michael, Dawn, and William; therefore, be
21 it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
2 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
3 we mourn the passing of former Illinois Congressman Robert T.
4 "Bobby" Schilling and extend our sincere condolences to his
5 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the family of Bobby Schilling as an expression of
9 our deepest sympathy.