



SR1093

LRB102 28196 LAW 40004 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 Colonel James Andrew Smith Jr., Illinois Army National Guard (Ret.) of Chatham, who passed away on May 11, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, James Smith was born to James Andrew Smith Sr. and Alex Lim Clark in Cleveland, Mississippi on December 28, 1959; he married Nilsa Bruno in St. Louis, Missouri on September 22, 1984; and

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WHEREAS, James Smith began his military career as an enlisted soldier in 1977, commissioning through the Illinois Army National Guard Officer Candidate School in 1982; he spent his early years as a young officer in the 3rd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment based in East St. Louis; he managed the East St. Louis Armory and became respected as a member of the Illinois Army National Guard; and

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WHEREAS, James Smith served in various staff and leadership positions before taking command of the Company C, 3rd Battalion, 130th Infantry based in Salem; after company command, he served as assistant S-3 of the 33rd Infantry Brigade before serving as commander of the brigade's headquarters company and finally as commander of brigade S-2;

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1 he served as the executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 131st
2 Infantry Regiment based in Joliet in 1995; he served as an
3 operations and training officer at the Illinois Army National
4 Guard headquarters in Springfield in 1998; he was appointed
5 commander of the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment in
6 Chicago in 1999; after two years in command, he was
7 transferred to the 33rd Area Support Group (ASG), where he
8 helped coordinate the unit's response to the terrorist attacks
9 of September 11, 2001; and

10 WHEREAS, James Smith was appointed as the deputy chief of
11 staff for Personnel (G-1) in 2003, where he played an integral
12 role in preparing the Illinois Army National Guard units for
13 deployment to Iraq and then Afghanistan before being appointed
14 as the chief of staff of the Illinois Army National Guard, a
15 position from which he retired in 2008; he was then appointed
16 as the chief of staff of the Illinois Department of Military
17 Affairs that same year, where his successes continued; and

18 WHEREAS, James Smith was an advocate and served as
19 executive director for the Lincoln's Challenge Academy; he was
20 also actively involved with the Illinois Military Family
21 Relief Fund, the Illinois State Military Museum, the National
22 Guard Association of Illinois, and, most of all, the soldiers
23 and airmen of the Illinois National Guard and their families;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, James Smith was proud of being an infantry
2 officer, a devout Catholic, and an unwavering St. Louis
3 Cardinals fan; in his spare time, he enjoyed reading, camping,
4 and traveling; and

5 WHEREAS, James Smith was preceded in death by his father;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, James Smith is survived by his wife, Nilsa Smith;
8 his son, Samuel Smith; his mother, Alex Lim Clark; his
9 siblings, Reginald (Yvonne) Smith, Reba Smith, Ericka Smith,
10 Denise Hampton, and Rebecca (Stevie) Smith-Bowen; and his
11 beloved dog, Timber; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
14 Colonel James Andrew Smith Jr., Illinois Army National Guard
15 (Ret.) and extend our sincere condolences to his family,
16 friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to the family of James Smith as an expression of our
19 deepest sympathy.