



HR0925

LRB103 42342 ECR 75566 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The rich land of Northeastern Illinois has
3 rewarded hard workers for generations; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the individuals who knows this best is
5 Gordon W. Stade, a man of the land of Northeastern Illinois,
6 who set down roots in Kane County and McHenry County; and

7 WHEREAS, Like many of the counties of Illinois, McHenry
8 County has a county fair and a county fair 4-H auction; the
9 purpose of the auction is to enable young adults to show their
10 animals and to earn a reward for the hard work that is required
11 to get them ready to show; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1959, as a 27-year-old, Gordon Stade began
13 volunteering for auctioneer duties at the 4-H McHenry County
14 Fair Auction; this was an event that caused many of his
15 neighbors to turn off their radios and their black-and-white
16 TV sets so they could come to see the show and cheer the kids
17 who were doing the showings; and

18 WHEREAS, According to Gordon Stade, this was a major
19 sacrifice for many of the buyers and spectators as the day of
20 the 4-H auction was certain to be the hottest day of the year
21 and, furthermore, it would almost always be raining; and

1 WHEREAS, As they were already suffering from the heat and
2 wet from the rain, it was only a small additional burden for
3 the buyers if they were to add a little bit more to the market
4 price for the animals being shown; with a steadily lengthening
5 supply of jokes, patter lines, and teases for the men and women
6 he knew, Gordon Stade was able to bring in a larger and larger
7 auction premium for the 4-H members who had put their animals
8 in his care; and

9 WHEREAS, By the 1980s and continuing through the 2010s and
10 into the 2020s, the annual 4-H McHenry County auctions were
11 considered great events with an average of 200 animals shown
12 and auctioned off each year; in his fourth decade, fifth
13 decade, sixth decade, and into his seventh decade as the
14 McHenry County Fair 4-H auctioneer, Gordon Stade would speak
15 out for every kid and every animal even though each auction day
16 was hotter and rainier than the last; and

17 WHEREAS, The 4-H kids of McHenry County, and those who
18 were 4-H kids once, shall never forget the auctioneer who
19 helped them realize that hard work and excitement can come
20 together to create something called life; and

21 WHEREAS, Any tribute to Gordon Stade has to mention his
22 wing men, including but not limited to Gene Meyer, Ken Book,

1 and Tim Watkins, because every auctioneer knows that he or she
2 is nothing without his wing people; and

3 WHEREAS, After 64 years, Gordon Stade has begun to lay
4 down his hammer; on August 3, 2024, for the first time in many
5 generations, the duties of the McHenry County Sale of
6 Champions auctioneer were largely carried on by Gordon Stade's
7 nephew, Mike Stade, with Gordon standing in for a few animals;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Upon the first auction day that Gordon Stade
10 fully puts down his hammer, it is predicted that the
11 thermometer will drop, the rain clouds will all be in
12 Wisconsin, and the sun will shine out brightly over the people
13 and fair attendees of McHenry County; and

14 WHEREAS, In sadness but in recognition of the ultimate
15 hammer of Father Time, the McHenry County 4-H Livestock
16 Auction Committee has renamed their animal pavilion as the
17 "Hansen Pavilion Gordon Stade Livestock Arena"; therefore, be
18 it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 we pay tribute to and recognize the service of McHenry County
22 auctioneer and community leader Gordon Stade; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
3 presented to County Fair Auctioneer Gordon Stade and his wife,
4 Karen Hall-Stade.