



SR1249

LRB103 43054 MST 76307 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 John W. Sheppard of Pittsfield, who passed away on October 15, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, John Sheppard was born to Earl and Jessie Smith Sheppard in Time on September 12, 1931; he married Karolyn J. Beatty at New Salem United Methodist Church on September 20, 1953; he was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1954, and he served as a radar technician in Thule, Greenland until his honorable discharge in November 1956; he later married Carlene Dunham on July 27, 2012; and

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WHEREAS, John Sheppard was a livestock farmer until he was 91 years old; he raised shorthorn cattle, Oxford sheep, and Poland China hogs with his faithful farm dog by his side; he was also a Burrus seed salesman for numerous years; and

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WHEREAS, John Sheppard formed the Bay Creek Watershed Board in 1973 and was the first appointee, serving on the board for 50 years; and

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WHEREAS, John Sheppard was committed to serving the people of Pittsfield and Pike County; he was a member of the Pike County Board from 1978 to 2000, serving as chair for a number

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1 of years; and

2 WHEREAS, John Sheppard was the last president of the Pike
3 and Louisiana Railroad; he was honored as Volunteer of the
4 Year by the Pike County Chamber of Commerce and was
5 instrumental in the restoration of the historic bandstand in
6 Time; he also served as a board member for Looking for Lincoln;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, John Sheppard and his first wife, Karolyn, were
9 4-H leaders for many years and were inducted into the Illinois
10 4-H Hall of Fame for their service in 2009; and

11 WHEREAS, John Sheppard will be remembered as a devoted and
12 loving husband, father, and grandfather, a dedicated public
13 servant, a loyal friend, and a man of strong faith; and

14 WHEREAS, John Sheppard was preceded in death by his first
15 wife of 55 years, Karolyn; his parents; his
16 great-granddaughter, Piper Isabel Lewis; and his sister,
17 Catherine Moore; and

18 WHEREAS, John Sheppard is survived by his wife, Carlene;
19 his sons, Robert (Kelly) Sheppard, Tom Sheppard, Bill (Martha)
20 Sheppard, Jim Sheppard, and Ron (Mary Ann) Sheppard; his
21 daughters, Sandy (Larry) Wigington, Mary (Dave) Lagemann, and

1 Kathy (Tom) Scranton; 13 grandchildren; 19
2 great-grandchildren, with another on the way; his
3 brother-in-law, Dale Moore; and numerous nieces and nephews;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of
7 John W. Sheppard and extend our sincere condolences to his
8 family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of John Sheppard as an expression of
12 our deepest sympathy.