



HR0627

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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 State Representative John "Jay" C. Ackerman of Morton, who  
5 passed away on July 23, 2007; and

6           WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman served in the Illinois House of  
7 Representatives from 1979 to 1983 and from 1987 to 1999; during  
8 his time in the Capitol he worked with the Legislative  
9 Sportsmen's Caucus and helped to establish a State fish and  
10 wildlife area in Cass County; he helped bring reform to the  
11 Chicago school system, aided in welfare reform, supported the  
12 State's truth-in-sentencing law, voted for measures to help  
13 senior citizens, promoted agriculture and the preservation of  
14 the family farm; and chaired the House Public Utilities  
15 Committee; and

16           WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman was one of the few active farmers to  
17 serve in the General Assembly during his tenure; he was a  
18 strong supporter of the Second Amendment; he was known as  
19 someone who cared more about his constituents and representing  
20 the people of his district than being a politician; he was  
21 well-liked by all his colleagues and enjoyed socializing; he  
22 enjoyed singing "Crazy" and other songs by his favorite artist,  
23 Patsy Cline; and

1           WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman was an avid hunter and fisherman; he,  
2 his son, and his sons-in-law were the Winning Boat and Anglers  
3 at the July 19, 2007 Department of Natural Resources sponsored  
4 Sam Romano Lake Michigan Fishing Tournament in Winthrop Harbor;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman was an accomplished softball player,  
7 known for playing in fast-pitch leagues across central Illinois  
8 for 40 years; he began by pitching against the barn door during  
9 his 4-H league days; he held the record for striking out 18 of  
10 21 batters in 7 innings; he matched Eddie Feigner, the King and  
11 his Court, in a 4-to-4 tie game, with local media reporting  
12 that his pitches were jumping more than the King's; and

13           WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman started in politics due to his  
14 dissatisfaction with the limited opportunities young people  
15 had to play softball in his hometown; he ran for a seat on the  
16 Morton Park District Board and served from 1967 to 1975; he was  
17 influential in building the first ball diamonds at Lions Field  
18 in Morton; he later served on the Tazewell County board from  
19 1972 to 1978; and

20           WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman was a United States Army veteran,  
21 serving two years as a medical technician; he was born on and

1 farmed the Ackerman Centennial Farm in Morton; he attended  
2 Crandall School, a one-room school house located on the farm;  
3 he graduated from Morton High School where he lettered in  
4 football and track; and he attended agriculture classes at the  
5 University of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Jay Ackerman was a wonderful husband, father,  
7 grandfather, and brother; his passing will be deeply felt by  
8 all those who knew and loved him, especially his wife, Joann;  
9 his son, Doug (Christine); his daughters, Jody (Mark)  
10 Bugaieski, Amy (John) Lacy, and Wendy (Mike) Fox; his sister,  
11 Sally Walker; his grandchildren, Rick and Jed Lacy, Kiley and  
12 Brock Bugaieski, and Morgan and Hallie Fox; his six nephews;  
13 and his many friends, colleagues, former constituents and  
14 neighbors; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
17 mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of former  
18 State Representative John C. "Jay" Ackerman; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of former State Representative John C.  
21 "Jay" Ackerman as a symbol of our sympathy.