



SR0224

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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 Dr. Wilson H. West of Belleville, who passed away on May 21, 2007; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Wilson H. West was born September 13, 1913, in Odin; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. West was a member of the Signal Hill United Methodist Church, Gothic Lodge #852 A.F. & A.M., the Scottish Rite of Southern Illinois, the Knights Templar, and the Ainad Shrine; he was also a member of the St. Clair County Medical Society and served as its president in 1971; Dr. West also served on the Board of Directors of the Union Bank of St. Clair County for 25 years; and

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WHEREAS, He was an active member and leader in the Republican Party and was viewed by many as the foremost authority on the Republican Party in Southwestern Illinois; he served as Chairman of the St. Clair County Republican Century Club for more than 25 years, was elected as a delegate at seven Republican National Conventions, and was an Elector in the Electoral College for three presidential elections; he was very active in local, State, and national politics and hosted prominent politicians at St. Clair County events, including

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1 Former President George H. W. Bush, Dennis Hastert, the late  
2 Everett Dirksen, Howard Baker, Jay Rockefeller, and many  
3 others; many Illinois politicians attended events at his  
4 invitation, including former Treasurer Judy Barr-Topinka and  
5 former Governors Ryan, Edgar, Thompson, and Ogilvie; he was  
6 proud to have attended the inaugurations of many Presidents and  
7 Governors and was a frequent guest at the Governor's Mansion  
8 and the White House; and

9 WHEREAS, After graduating from Southern Illinois Teachers  
10 College (now Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) in  
11 1933, Dr. West pursued his M.D. at Saint Louis University  
12 School of Medicine; he graduated in 1937 and practiced general  
13 medicine and surgery in East St. Louis for 45 years before  
14 moving his medical practice to Belleville, where he practiced  
15 until his retirement in 1997; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. West served on the board of Centreville (now  
17 Touchette Regional Hospital) for forty years; he also served as  
18 Chief of Staff at Centerville, Christian Welfare, and Saint  
19 Mary's hospitals at various times during his career; Dr. West  
20 wrote for medical research journals and was a professor at  
21 Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Washington  
22 University School of Medicine, and Barnes Hospital; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. West is the namesake and past recipient of the

1 St. Clair County Medical Society's Wilson H. West Award for  
2 service in the health care profession; Dr. West was honored as  
3 an "outstanding alumnus" by the St. Louis University School of  
4 Medicine; in 1966, Dr. West received the Everett Dirksen Award  
5 and subsequently established a Nursing Scholarship with the  
6 same organization; in 2002, Dr. West was awarded the  
7 prestigious Eisenhower Commission; he was awarded lifetime  
8 membership on the Republican National Committee, the honorary  
9 organization the Republican Speaker's Circle, and the  
10 President's Club; and

11 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 58  
12 years, Sarah Mildred (Ingram) West, his parents, William and  
13 Clara West and his two siblings, Georgia Purvis and Margaret  
14 West; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. West is survived by his only son, John West;  
16 his grandchildren, Kimberly Caslin, Mardi West, John West Jr.,  
17 Sarah West, and Jason West; and his great-grandchildren, Claire  
18 Allread, Ryan Caslin, Melissa West, John West III, and Noah  
19 Caslin; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
22 his family, friends, colleagues, and people whose lives he  
23 touched through the years, the passing of Dr. Wilson West; and

1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
3 presented to the family of Dr. Wilson West as a symbol of our  
4 sympathy.