



HR0403

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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 Clinton
4 Craig Atkins of Naples, Florida, formerly of Champaign, who
5 passed away on April 24, 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, He was born on June 12, 1945, in Sewickley,
7 Pennsylvania, the son of Clinton Paul and Maxine Long Atkins;
8 he received his high school diploma from Champaign Central in
9 Champaign in 1963 and attended the University of Illinois; and

10 WHEREAS, He married Susan A. Stitt on November 2, 1963; he
11 began working at The News-Gazette in Champaign in 1964 in the
12 circulation department; he enjoyed working with the youth of
13 the community and the departments to get the paper out on time;
14 after retiring at the age of 30, he had acquired several
15 properties in Champaign and the surrounding communities; and

16 WHEREAS, He returned to work in 1981, when he acquired
17 Westgate Apartments, a chain of liquor stores in the twin
18 cities, Tower Hobbies, Herr's, Great Plains, warehouses, other
19 real estate, and became a co-founder of Plastic Container
20 Corporation; in the 1990s, he and his partner, Bruce Holecek,
21 built Hobbico into the world's largest distributor of
22 radio-controlled model planes, cars, and boats; he developed

1 North Prospect Avenue, including Baytowne Apartments, Square
2 and Shoppes; ten years later, he developed Stone Creek Golf
3 Course, Subdivision, Commons, and Shoppes in southeast Urbana;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 2010, the Parkland College Foundation awarded
6 him the V. Dale Cozad Entrepreneur of the Year award; and

7 WHEREAS, He always looked for the "deal" in which both
8 parties won; he was involved in many partnerships; his desire
9 was to make Champaign-Urbana the best it could be, through
10 creating jobs, providing housing, philanthropy through various
11 charities, and promoting the arts, education, and athletics at
12 the University of Illinois; "Being the Best You Can Be" has
13 always been his motto, and promoting others has always been his
14 desire; and

15 WHEREAS, He enjoyed sharing his experiences with his
16 family, friends, and employees; it could be a sporting event,
17 travel, seminars, or anytime to gather and enjoy the event; his
18 love of family, friends, and community was always his first
19 priority; and

20 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents, Clinton
21 Paul and Maxine L. Atkins; his grandson, Zane; and his nephew,
22 Clinton Paul; and

1 WHEREAS, Clinton Craig Atkins is survived by his loving
2 wife, Susie; his children, Suzette (Michael) Hogan, C. Todd
3 (Julia) Atkins, and Spencer (Tracy) Atkins; his grandchildren,
4 Amber (Travis) Geraldts, Kathryne, Emily, Nolan, Alexis,
5 Spencer Von, Olivia, Victoria, Isabella, and George; his
6 brother, Vincent (Inge) Atkins; his sister, Mary (Ivan)
7 Hassinger; his sister-in-law, Donna Harris; and several loving
8 nieces and nephews and their families; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
12 Clinton Atkins; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Clinton Atkins as a symbol of our
15 sincere sympathy.