



HR0649

LRB097 14991 KXB 60033 r

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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 Mt. Vernon Mayor Rolland Lewis, who passed away on November 5,
5 2011; and

6 WHEREAS, He was born to Chester and Lillian (Fair) Lewis in
7 Chicago on October 13, 1930; he was an active member and lay
8 reader of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Mt. Vernon; he
9 attended Caldwell Grade School and graduated from Bowen High
10 School, after which he attended the first 2 years at the
11 University of Illinois Chicago Annex; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 25, 1952, he married Sally Watts; he
13 proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps
14 during the Korean War as a Gunnery Sergeant; he spent 5 months
15 in combat with the 1st Marine Division before being wounded and
16 spending several months recovering in a hospital in Japan; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1959, he moved to Mt. Vernon with his wife,
18 Sally, and became active in the community; he was a real estate
19 manager, ran Lewis and Farley Construction Co., started and ran
20 House de Lions, Ltd., and participated, with his long-time
21 friend, David Flota, in the upstart of a new company called Mr.
22 Ice; and

1 WHEREAS, He was instrumental in bringing the YMCA to Mt.
2 Vernon and served as its president; he later served as vice
3 president of the Southern Illinois YMCA, becoming a drive
4 chairman for the United Fund in Jefferson County, and was
5 active in the VFW, AMVETS, and American Legion; he was elected
6 as Mayor of Mt. Vernon as well as precinct committeeman in the
7 Shiloh 4 precinct; his tenure as Mayor of Mt. Vernon lasted
8 from 1969 to 1977 and again from 1985 to 1997; and

9 WHEREAS, He served as past president of the Illinois
10 Municipal League, helped form the Southern Illinois Mayors
11 Association (SIMA), serving as president 3 times; he served on
12 the Illinois Economic Board, the Illinois Commission on the
13 Future of Public Service, and the Environmental Financial
14 Advisory Board for the United States EPA in Washington, D.C.;
15 he served on the Governor's Advisory Board under the Ogilvie
16 administration and the Illinois Law Enforcement Administration
17 as an appointee of Governor Thompson; he was also appointed by
18 Governor Edgar and Governor Ryan and confirmed by the Senate as
19 Chairman of the Board of Review for the Department of
20 Employment Security for 14 years; and

21 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his parents and his
22 son, Jeffrey George Lewis Sr.; and

1 WHEREAS, Rolland Lewis is survived by his wife of more than
2 59 years, Sally Lewis; his sons, John Lewis and wife, Pam,
3 Brian Lewis and wife, Kathy, and Robert Lewis; his
4 daughter-in-law, Minda Lewis; his 16 grandchildren: and his 8
5 great-grandchildren; therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
7 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
8 we mourn, along with his family and friends, the passing of
9 Rolland Lewis; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Rolland Lewis as a symbol of our
12 sincere sympathy.